

'Boom Boom' Bautista TKOs Brazil's Andrade in fourth round



Docs say Mike Arroyo angioplasty successful

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH NO LESS THAN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo and her children watching through a glass panel, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo yesterday underwent an angioplasty, a medical procedure to relieve a clogged artery in his heart.

The procedure, which took place at St. Luke's Medical Center, began after 7 a.m., took less

DOCS/A4

Guimaras fishers to get paid for lost income

3 car bomb attacks kill 51 in Baghdad



Dionisio, Molina bow to superior foes in Asian Games

Asean caring community? GMA faces tough sell

MANILA'S PROMOTION of Southeast Asia as a compassionate community and the Philippines as a reinvigorated developing economy could prove to be a hard sell when the country hosts the region's



ASEAN/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, December 4, 2006

★★

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State of nat'l calamity



CARLITO Valderama cries as earth is shoveled on the coffin of his wife Editha during a mass burial near the slope of Mayon volcano. Officials say Supertyphoon "Reming's" death toll could reach over 800.

P1-B relief aid OKd for 'Reming' victims

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DECLARED A state of national calamity yesterday as the death toll from "Reming" was expected to exceed 1,000, most of them in villages in Albay crushed by boulders and mud loosened from the slopes of Mt. Mayon by the heavy rains spawned by the supertyphoon.

As many as 31 villages of 14,871 residents were hit by the mud flows, according to the Red Cross.

Power, communication and water still remained out of service in most of Bicol, further hampering rescue and relief efforts, but tales of tragedy and loss abounded.

The President's declaration would allow the government to speed up the release of funds needed to bolster search and rescue efforts and help several provinces recover from Reming.

Ms Arroyo has authorized the Department of Budget and Management to release P1 billion for relief and rehabilitation efforts.

"All resources of the government will continue to be mobilized without letup as we pin hope against hope on the search of survivors," she said in a statement.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the President had dispatched him to Bicol to assess the damage "so we will know the resources needed for relief and rehabilitation."

Glen Rabonza, executive officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), said the declaration of a state of national calamity would also

'I couldn't believe it was my son'

By Joanna Los Baños and Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—AS FLOODWATERS unleashed by Supertyphoon "Reming" swept her village, Sally Buensalida, 26, embraced her 2-year-old son before sending him off to her mother's house, thinking he would be safe there. It was to be their last embrace.

Interviewed at a funeral parlor here, Sally said the place where she was staying was collapsing and she thought that her son would be safer with her mother.

After Reming passed, Sally went to check on the boy.

"I was shocked to see my mother's house gone," she said between sobs. She was told her son's body had been seen floating in Albay Gulf.

"I couldn't believe it was my son because his eyes were wide open... Later, I realized it was really him," said Sally, whose husband was in Manila at the time.

STATE/A13

I COULDN'T/A12

DPWH, Phivolcs blamed for deaths

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH POSSIBLY MORE THAN 1,000 people dead in the wake of Supertyphoon "Reming," the finger-pointing has begun.

And the fingers were trained on the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Distraught Guinobatan Mayor Juan Garcia blamed the DPWH's dredging project in his town for the deaths of more than 100 residents.

"I have to be frank about it. This would not have happened had the DPWH not dredged the area there," he told Sen. Richard Gordon during a brief meeting

near the town plaza on Saturday. "The barangay officials had objected to it and tried to stop it, but to no avail. We would not have had such a huge casualty (figure) in Maipon."

As a result of the dredging in an area called Maninila, Maipon became the catch basin of mudflows and floodwaters when Reming battered Bicol on Thursday, the mayor said.

"We will investigate that," said Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Gordon said Phivolcs and the Red Cross had warned the people about the mudflows before the typhoon hit the region.

Aboard an Air Force helicopter Saturday, one could see the black

DPWH/A12

Cha-cha train starts chugging in House

By Michael Lim Ubac

THERE'S NO STOPPING THE Charter change (Cha-cha) express.

Before dusk today, members of the House of Representatives will convene with a single overriding agenda in mind—the abolition of the presidential form of government to pave the way for the adoption of a parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature.

The administration's allies will begin the process by amending the House rules, deleting the second sentence in Section 105 of Rule 15 that indicates separate votes on Charter amendments in the House of Representatives and the Senate, Congress leaders told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The sentence reads: "The adoption of resolutions proposing amendments to or revision of the Constitution shall follow the procedure for the enactment of bills."

The next move will be the convening of Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-ass), possibly on Wednesday, according to House officials.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero vowed to mount a "last stand" against Charter change by seeking to postpone the floor debate and focus attention on urgent measures to help victims of Supertyphoon "Reming" in Bicol.

"We will fight to the end," said Escudero, leader of the minority bloc that twice bungled moves in Congress the past year to im-

CHA-CHA TRAIN/A6

SUBIC RAPE CASE

4 American Marines face judgment today

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Nikko Dizon

AFTER A YEAR MARKED BY emotion-packed hearings, a historic rape case comes to a close today, with the verdict—"guilty" or "not guilty"—likely to raise political reverberations beyond the courtroom of a media-shy judge.

On the line is the fate of five people in their 20s—four US Marines and their Filipino accuser known to the nation only by her pseudonym Nicole—whose lives were unexpectedly intertwined by a one-night fling inside a crowded nightclub at Subic Bay Freeport.

When Regional Trial Court Judge Benjamin Pozon slams down his gavel at approximately 1 p.m. to open today's session at the old Makati City Hall, he will be in the midst of history.

The case marks the first time American servicemen will have been tried in a Philippine court under the Visiting Forces Agreement governing the status of US soldiers in this country.

The trial has also been viewed as a test of the long-standing ties between the two countries.

Police have laid down heavy security measures to curb any violence during expected protest actions around the courthouse.

On trial are Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter.

Nicole had accused Smith of raping her inside a moving van at Subic before midnight on Nov. 1, 2005, while the others supposedly cheered Smith on.

The Americans have denied the accusations, with Smith telling the court that what happened between him and Nicole was sex by mutual agreement.

All that US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop would say when reached by the INQUIRER was: "We are waiting for tomorrow, like everyone else."

"We presented witnesses who saw what happened prior to and after the actual rape which corroborated the testimony of Nicole," said Evalyn Ursua, the complainant's private lawyer.

"For me, that is a basis to say that we've established our case

4 AMERICAN/A8

Con-ass won't stop political dynasties

By Amando Doronila

WHETHER THE LAST ADMINISTRATION blitzkrieg to ram through in Congress on Dec. 6 a constituent assembly as the mode for Charter change succeeds or not, it is certain that it will not produce a political earthquake that will dislodge the dynastic elite from its domination of the country's political life.

A defeat of the final big push for Con-ass not only ends the Arroyo administration's project of engineering a historic shift from the presidential to parliamentary system. It also sends the country



PROTEST ART

A woman bound with rope sculpted by artist Liza Chie Cruz is among the 184 art works in "Tutok Karapatan," an exhibit by different artists with themes focusing on human rights violations and political killings, at the Boston Gallery in Cubao, Quezon City.

RAFFY LERMA

CONSTITUENT/A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent rains over Bicol region including Quezon and Aurora provinces. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/12/03/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Halo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laosag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Possible SC app't draws mixed reviews

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Leila B. Salaverria

WITH JEERS AND CHEERS.

This was how lawmakers greeted what appeared to be the imminent appointment of Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno as the next Chief Justice.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said Puno should be disqualified from the post, while other members of the House majority called reports of his appointment "plain intrigue," meant to discredit the appointment process and the administration's Charter change efforts.

"It's more than likely that Justice Puno knows that he's Malacañang's chosen one for Chief Justice, hence, his last decision to support the people's initiative. Puno will be functioning as Malacañang's stamp pad if he's appointed," Beltran said yesterday.

He said that "out of delicadeza, (propriety)" Puno should declare that he has no ambition of becoming Chief Justice.

"Otherwise, if he is appointed, he will not have even the slightest shred of credibility. He will be a mere errand boy of President Arroyo... his main task will be to throw out any motions against Charter change, especially those that will emanate from the Senate and civil society groups," Beltran said.

The activist lawmaker, who is

under hospital arrest on rebellion charges, said the next Chief Justice should uphold the majority decision previously laid down against the people's initiative.

Well-respected

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles and Rep. Marcelino Libanan (Lakas, Eastern Samar), vice chair of the House committee on justice, said the President should be given a free hand in choosing the successor to retiring Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

"In fairness to Justice Puno, he has his own merits that qualify him for the SC Chief Justice post. He knows his law, he has integrity and he is well-respected," Cerilles said. "I don't understand why some people want to intrigue (sic) him."

And just in case the constituent assembly (Con-ass) bid of the House to amend the Constitution would be challenged in the Supreme Court, Libanan said this would be decided by the justices based on the merits and arguments presented by



PUNO

both the petitioners and the House.

"It's unfair to say that Justice Puno's appointment will ensure the affirmation of the constituent assembly bid. The SC rules on any given issue are based on the collective division of its members," he said.

Most senior

Raul Lambino, spokesperson of the pro-Charter change group Sigaw ng Bayan, said Puno had all the qualifications for Chief Justice.

"Justice Puno is independent-minded. He doesn't care who appointed him to the post. He comes up with decisions based on what is constitutional and legal, unlike others," Lambino said in a phone interview.

Puno was one of the dissenters in the decision junking the recent palace-supported Sigaw ng Bayan petition for a people's initiative for Charter change.

Lambino also said that Puno, being the most senior justice, should have been appointed Chief Justice instead of Panganiban in December 2005.

He said the President should not have bucked tradition but picked the most senior justice as Chief Justice, especially since Puno was well-deserving of the post.

Gung-ho

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan was gung-ho about voiding the nomination of the five associate justice-candidates to the post of Chief Justice after they snubbed last Wednesday's public interviews by the Judicial and Bar Council.

The JBC is set to meet at 11 a.m. today at the Supreme Court to vote on the nominations of Justices Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Consuelo Yñares-Santiago and Antonio Carpio.

"I will push for the declaration of a failure of the nomination process and ask that a new nomination process be undertaken considering that only one nominee complied with the requirement on public interviews," Pangilinan, JBC ex-officio member, said in a statement.

He added that if he would be outvoted, he would "respect and abide by" the decision of the majority in the JBC.

Only Miriam

After the snub, Pangilinan said the JBC had the option to declare a failure of the nomination process and reopen the nomination, or to waive the requirement of a public inter-

view and proceed to consider the nominations of the six candidates.

Quisumbing argued that there was no constitutional basis to compel candidates to undergo interviews by the JBC.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the sixth nominee, appeared before the body but decided against being interviewed after the other nominees failed to show up.

Soldiers registering for polls in droves

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—MORE THAN 8,000 soldiers assigned in Catbalogan, Samar, had registered as voters at the Commission on Elections in the past few days, the military reported.

First Lt. Mario Jose Chico, public affairs chief of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division, said the registration was not "mandatory but just a reminder" for the soldiers to cast their votes in next year's elections.

"This way, we can exercise our right to vote. I don't think there is something sinister about this," Chico told the INQUIRER by mobile phone.

He stressed that the 8th Infantry division commander,

Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, did not issue any order on the matter.

Chico said the soldiers were encouraged to register at their respective areas of assignment. He added that he himself had filed his voter's registration at the Comelec office in Catbalogan, where the division is located.

The soldiers from the 8th ID are deployed in Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

Chico assured the public that they would not support or endorse any particular candidate in next year's elections. "Our participation during the election is to ensure peace and the security of our people and nothing else," he said.

Fresh \$250-M ADB loan to boost RP fundamentals

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT has firmed up a fresh \$250-million program loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the proceeds of which will support efforts at boosting the country's macroeconomic fundamentals.

The loan from the Manila-based multilateral lender augments the "development policy loan (DPL)" facility initiated by the World Bank, which has separately committed \$250 million for this fiscal-strengthening program.

"This loan is aimed at restoring fiscal and maintaining macro-sta-

bility, enhancing public governance, improving the investment climate and protecting various social sectors," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said yesterday.

The fresh loan program from the ADB was approved on Thursday by the BSP's policy-making board, which is mandated to screen all public sector borrowings and even foreign private sector borrowings where repayments would be sourced from the banking system.

"It will consolidate and enhance public sector expenditure management as a basis for continuing dialogue and engage-

ment between the Republic of the Philippines and the ADB for 2007-2009," Guinigundo said.

The DPL is a policy financing offered by multilateral lenders like the World Bank and the ADB to countries whose macroeconomic management is satisfactory. The loan thus acts like a Good Housekeeping seal.

The World Bank's share of \$250 million in the DPL was approved earlier by the BSP.

Guinigundo said the ADB loan would have a 15-year maturity with a three-year grace period, with interest based on LIBOR or London Interbank Offered Rate for dollar loans.

The World Bank-ADB co-financed DPL facility is tied to specific reforms, including fiscal reforms, quality of expenditures, civil service reform and corruption control. It will have quantitative and qualitative performance targets, mostly related to the government's fiscal resolve.

One quantitative trigger is a significant adjustment in tax revenues and an increase in government revenue collection as a percentage of gross domestic product, or the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy.

On the other hand, the qualitative content will include actual

reforms passed, such as the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law, the administrative reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an improvement in the framework for public expenditures and the reconciliation of budget execution and budget formulation.

For the first time since the Ramos administration, the Philippine government is in a position to tap more foreign funds from official development assistance (ODA) programs than from the more expensive commercial borrowings. After the currency turmoil of 1997, the government has relied heavily on offshore commercial borrowings to bridge

the gaps in deficit-spending.

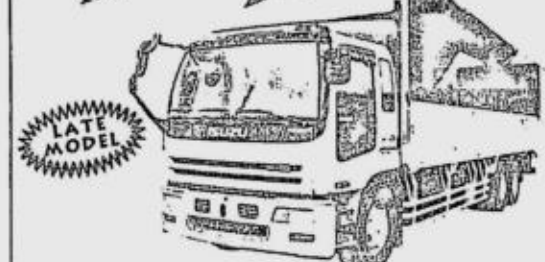
With the government's improving fiscal performance, the international donor community is keen on providing more ODAs. The Philippine government, for its part, has slashed its foreign sovereign bond offering program for 2007 to \$900 million from the earlier plan of \$1.2 billion to make more room for the cheaper ODA loans.

The government has programmed \$2.2 billion in fresh foreign borrowings for 2007 via a combination of ODA and commercial loans. The foreign borrowing requirement next year is lower than the \$4 billion completed for this year.

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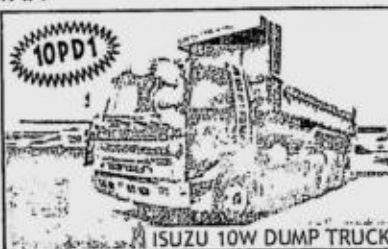
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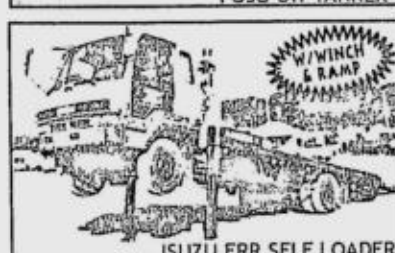
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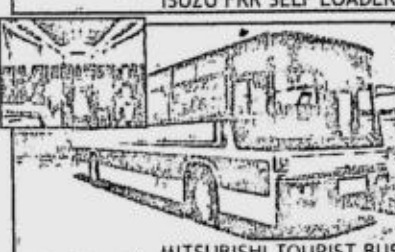
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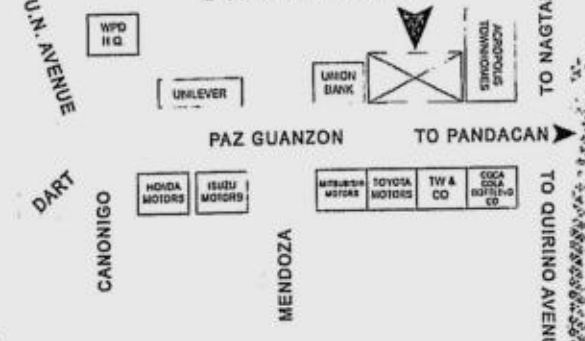
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Terror tip worth \$750 to 2 boys

ZAMBOANGA CITY—TWO BOYS WILL receive a cash reward from American officials for saving peoples' lives when they tipped off the authorities about the presence of a home-made bomb in Sulu last month.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney and US Pacific Command chief Navy Admiral William Fallon will

award \$750 (P37,000) to the two boys, aged 11 and 13, for alerting the authorities about the presence of improvised explosive devices on one of the major thoroughfares of Jolo in Sulu.

Maj. John Redfield, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP), told the INQUIRER that the identities of the boys were

being withheld for security reasons, and that the money would be "presented to someone on behalf of the boys."

He said Kenney and Fallon will make the presentation under the US Department of Defense rewards program.

Last week, the INQUIRER reported that US-backed Filipino troops were hunting at least 10 foreign al-Qaida-linked militants in Jolo.

The militants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were reportedly trying to make bombs, but government forces had stymied the group's terror-training and plotting activities by keeping the militants constantly on the run in Jolo's jungles, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino had said. (See related story on Page A10.) Julie S. Ali-pala, Inquirer Mindanao



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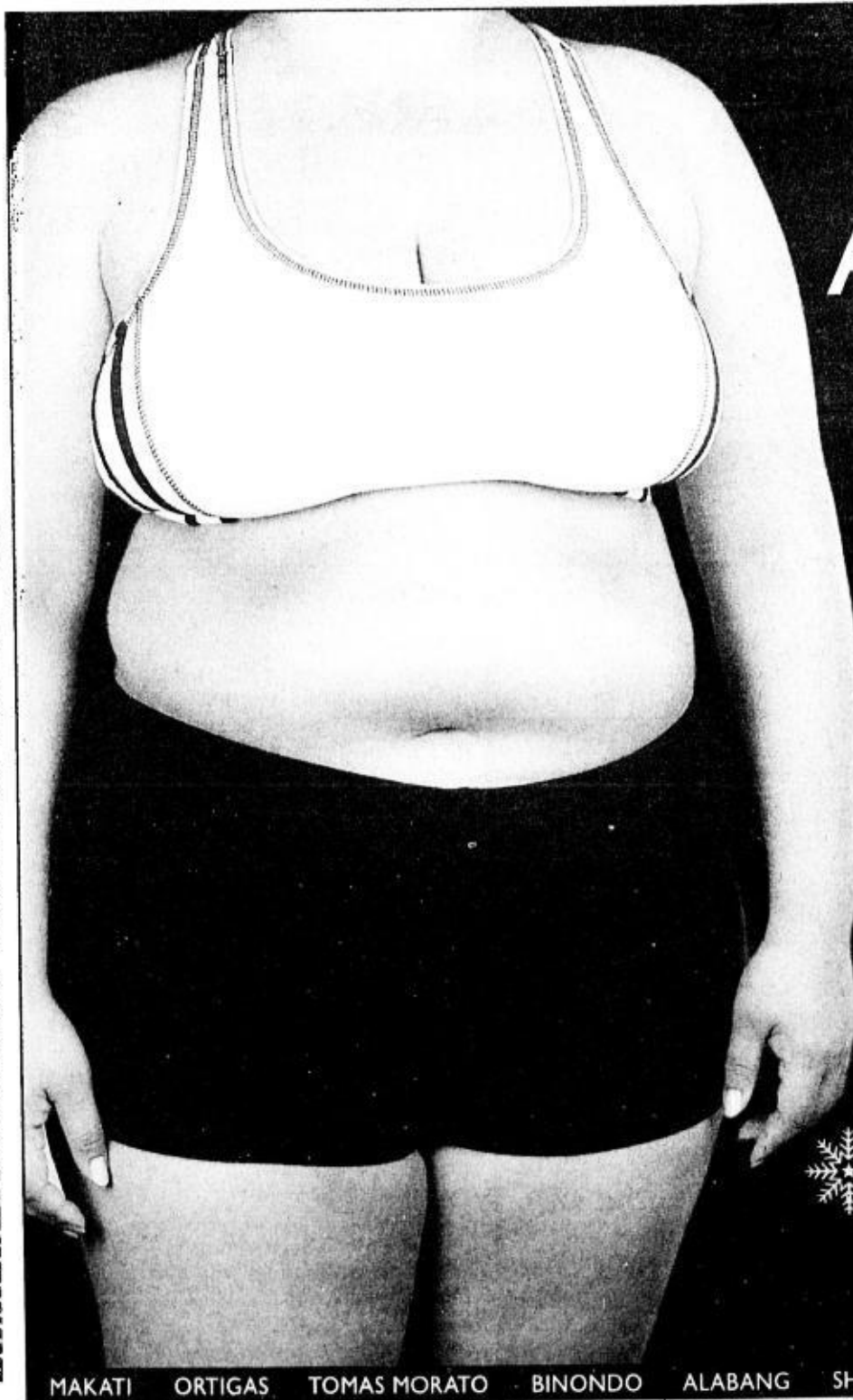
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marie france

From page A1

Various civil groups are planning to challenge Ms Arroyo and other Asean leaders on

The Cebu International Convention Center, the venue for many of the Asean meetings, is still incomplete and negative comparisons

"I chafe at the slowness of this country, but I would not swap it for a dictatorship like Vietnam," said Solita Monsod, professor of economics at the University of the Philippines. **Reports from Reuters and AFP**

From page A1

Follow-up test

"That's the reason why we do this because this is the only time



She said the First Gentleman was happy that the doctors were able to diagnose the problem, "even if I did not have any symptom."

Team of doctors

In the short procedure, doctors inserted a catheter near the groin.

The First Family also viewed the procedure through on a monitor she said.

Heart's delight diet

Arroyo's chief of staff Juan Soliman said that the First Family, including the grandchildren, were all together at the hospital on the eve of the medical procedure.

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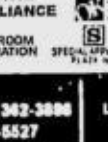
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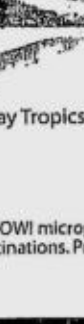
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Asean chiefs' spouses to have own full schedule

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FOR THE FIRST TIME IN the history of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summits, a series of activities is being mounted specially for the spouses of the heads of state and other dignitaries. Cebu is putting on a two-day extravaganza featuring its festivals, culture and world-class products.

On Dec. 11, the spouses will go to a bar-b-rio-fiesta-themed lunch to be highlighted by a 15-minute reenactment of the Battle of Mactan and a cultural show at the Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City.

Later in the evening, they will attend a serenata, parada, tertulla (serenade, parade, formal dinner) with the theme, "Pasko sa Sugbo" at the Malacañang sa Sugbo at Pier 1. The entertainers will include pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria, the Cebu City children's choir, the Palawod dancers of Bantayan town (to highlight Cebu as a marine sanctuary), the March of the Zagalas and Festival Queens, three Cebuana songbirds, and Madridejos town fishermen who will perform a dance of the boats.

On Dec. 12, the spouses will be brought to the Asean Friendship Grove at the Family Park in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City, for the unveiling of the Asean bamboo-shaped sculpture by Cebuano artist Raymond Fernandez. The sculpture is valued at P500,000.

This will be followed by a trip through Cebu's history, dubbed "Laag-Laag sa Sugbo (Roaming in Cebu)." The dignitaries' spouses, riding in air-conditioned buses, will take a 5-km trip from the provincial capitol to Magellan's Cross. Throughout the journey, they will be regaled by a live diorama of Cebu through the years, street performances and the traditional Sinulog.

Then it's back to the provincial capitol for lunch and a fashion show featuring Cebu-made designer clothes and accessories.



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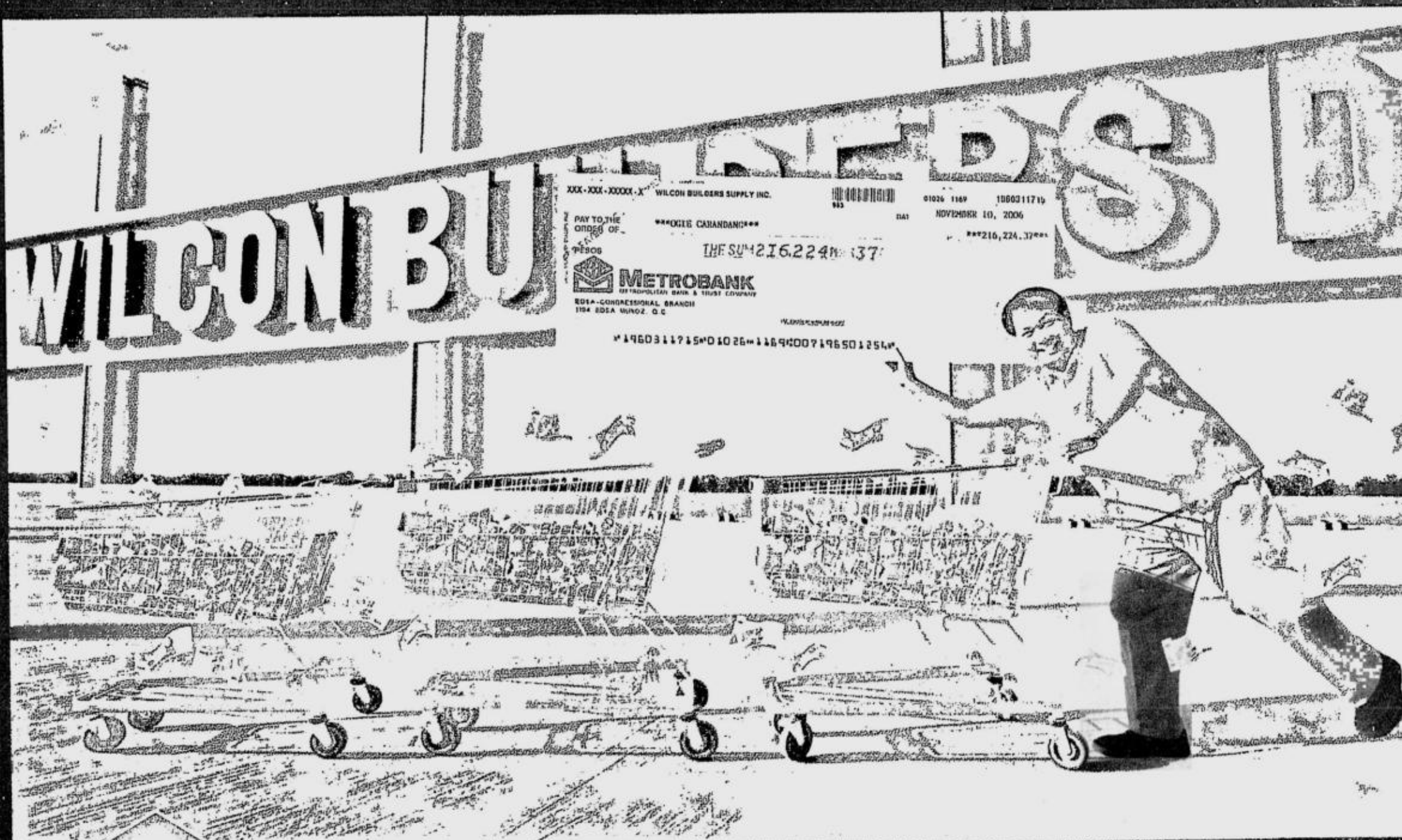
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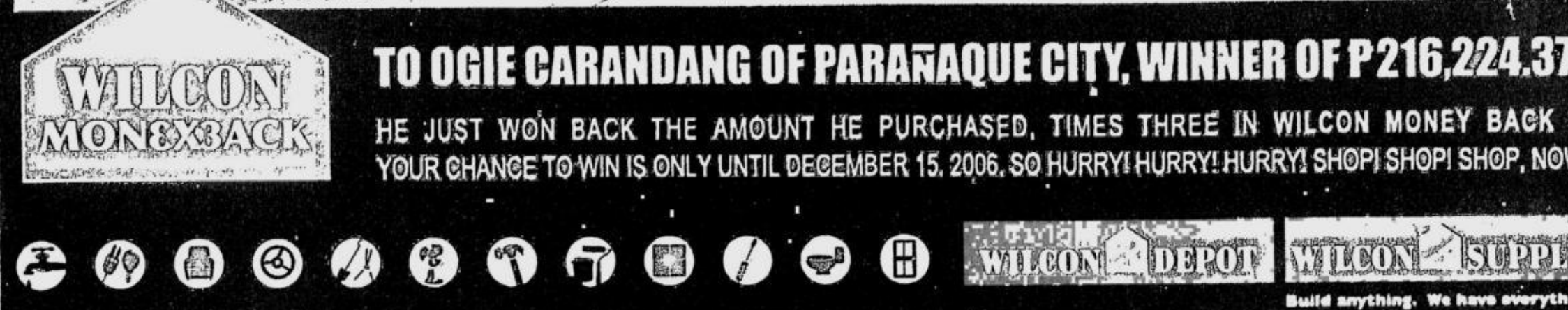
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Cha-cha train starts chugging ... Naming of next Chief Justice tied to Con-ass

From page A1

peach President Macapagal-Arroyo over election fraud charges.

Speaker Jose de Venecia has said that only three-fourths of all the members of Congress, or 195, is needed for Congress to constitute itself into a Con-ass.

After amending the rules, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, or one of his deputies, will manifest on the floor that 195 signatures had been gathered and pursuant to the Constitution, he will move to convene both chambers of Congress into an assembly to revise the Charter.

At this juncture, De Venecia will propose sending invitations to congressmen and senators to attend the joint session since the House believes that the two chambers this time is exercising a "constituent power," not the usual lawmaking function.

High moral ground

"We will take the high moral ground of inviting everybody because it should not be a Senateless Con-ass. It's our bounden, constitutional duty to make lawmak-

ers," De Venecia told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The Senate has largely opposed moves to amend the Constitution post haste through a constituent assembly, insisting that this should be done through a constitutional convention and after the May 2007 election.

Moves to convene the constituent assembly came after the Supreme Court in October declared illegal any move to revise the constitution through the "people's initiative" mode—one of three ways enshrined in the Constitution through which changes could be introduced in the fundamental law of the land.

The court also criticized the failure of the people's initiative proponents to inform the people adequately of the proposed revision of the Constitution, including the scuttling of the Senate and the open-ended term of the interim assembly to be made up of the present members of Congress.

Subverting people's will

It warned moves to amend the Charter without adhering to the prescribed procedures could result in "extraconstitutional

change, which means subverting the people's sovereign will and discarding the Constitution."

Last week, the influential Makati Business Club urged the Arroyo administration to put off until after next year's election Charter change initiatives, saying to do so now "greatly imperils" economic gains. It said Charter changes should be done "only with intelligent and well-informed analyses and debates and the genuine participation of our people."

In the phone interview, De Venecia said Congress could only propose Charter amendments. "All of these will have to be submitted to the Filipino people who will make the ultimate, final judgment by casting their votes on our proposals."

He said Charter amendments may win or lose in the plebiscite by February or March, "but let the sovereign will of people decide this (political battle)."

'People are fed up'

De Venecia insisted that the "people are fed up of the seemingly endless fighting between the legislative and the executive, senators and the President, and senators and congressmen" and "the high cost of operating two houses of Congress."

"It's now or never," he reiterated, appealing to senators to attend the Con-ass.

According to him, postponing Charter reforms until after the May 10, 2007, elections would spell "doom" for the Cha-cha drive.

He said the senatorial candidates who would have to spend P200 million to P400 million to get elected next year would never allow cutting short their terms of office.

"Do you think the new President in 2010 will agree to convert his office or post into a position for the prime minister?" said De Venecia, insisting that Ms Arroyo had agreed a long time ago to "share her powers" to a prime minister until 2010.

Serious moves to amend the Constitution were announced in the midst of calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation following last year's "Hello Garci" scandal that critics said was evidence she rigged the 2004 presidential election.

Quorum

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said that, with the 195 warm bodies on the floor, even with a few senators, there will be a quorum to introduce constitutional amendments immediately.

Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the proposed "package of amendments" crafted by a 10-member technical working group created by De Venecia and Ms Arroyo need not pass through the House or the Senate for either modification or concurrence.

"It's the constituent assembly that will make the amendments," said Jaraula.

By TJ Burgonio

WHOMEVER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will appoint as the next Chief Justice will determine the fate of the freshly revived move to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly (Con-ass), administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

The Senate opposition would immediately bring a case to the Supreme Court once the House of Representatives approves in plenary a resolution convening Congress into a constituent assembly, said Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (See related story on Page A2.)

In keeping with their new plan, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his allies would convene a constituent assembly on Wednesday—on the eve of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's retirement—to approve amendments preparatory to a shift to parliamentary government in 2010.

"What's more important is who will be the next Chief Justice, and who will be the new associate justice. They will determine the fate of Con-ass," Santiago, herself a candidate for the Chief Justice post, said in an interview. "That's the key to the turmoil over Con-ass."

Landmark case

Contrary to perception, the justices would be more fiercely independent now because they would be voting on a "landmark case" than when they junked the petition for a people's initiative in October, the senator said.

"The justices are far more concerned at writing history. This one will become a landmark case," she said. "So in this case, the justices will be voting far more independently. There will be far more resistance to any attempt to influence her or him by his or her own colleagues. Each justice will be struggling for his place in history."

Unlike the people's initiative, the issue on the House-initiated constituent assembly "raises a genuine question of law," and the justices could not be expected to vote as they had voted on the people's initiative petition, she said.

The justices voted 8-7 to junk the people's initiative petition as a mode of "revising" the Constitution and criticized its proponents for foisting a "gigantic fraud" by withholding the proposed Charter changes for the most part of its six-month signature gathering campaign.

Moral influence

But come voting time, the new Chief Justice's "moral influence" would play a crucial role, according to Santiago, a University of the Philippines law professor and former trial court judge.

"The Chief Justice has moral influence ... In the Supreme Court, one follows a colleague who is an expert on a subject like constitutional law. So he will be able to sway the majority of the justices," she said in the interview.

The President has indicated that she will name Associate Justice Reynato Puno as Panganiban's replacement to ensure the admin-

istration's "final push" for Charter change through a constituent assembly, said a source close to her.

But Santiago predicted that Ms Arroyo would appoint the most senior associate justice as "acting Chief Justice" to deflect criticism that might arise over her appointment as Chief Justice for political reasons. Puno is the most senior associate justice.

"Because of all the brouhaha, President Arroyo might just decide not to push the envelop, leave the vacancy as it is, and just let the issue take its natural course according to constitutional principles," she said.

'Tipping point?'

Sen. Ralph Recto, however, doubted that the new Chief Justice would become the "tipping point" that would tilt the case against Con-ass in favor of the proponents.

"Who knows—he or she may end up as another Tony Carpio, presidential friend-turned-fiscalizer," he said, referring to Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a former lawyer of the Arroyos.

"I don't think his or her ticket to the high courts is the premise to vote for Con-ass, even if it's legally abominable. I take the kind view that the newest justice will base his or her vote on the merits of the case and not because it's the fine print in the appointment papers," he added.

Pimentel said he had started meeting with his lawyers to draft the petition to be filed with the high tribunal if De Venecia and his allies succeeded "in railroad-ing the adoption of the Charter change resolution" this week.

He maintained that De Venecia's position that the majority could amend the Charter without the senators so long as it could muster the required number of votes, equivalent to three-fourths of all members of Congress, was "patently flawed."

Bicameral vote

"To amend the Constitution, there should be a corresponding resolution approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House cannot do it alone because this is not in conformity with the bicameral nature of Congress, the intent of the Constitution and the legislative traditions and rules," he said in a statement.

Santiago said the Senate Wednesday Group, composed of Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, and Senators Recto, Joker Arroyo and Pia Cayetano, had prepared a similar petition.

"They are just waiting for the gun to fire," she said. She, however, said she would not support such a petition because she believed that a constituent assembly could validly proceed if the House is joined by a "substantial number of senators."

Ms Arroyo, however, denied this, saying "we don't even know what the House will do. Besides, we should not be sidetracked by the damage wrought by the super typhoon in Bicol."

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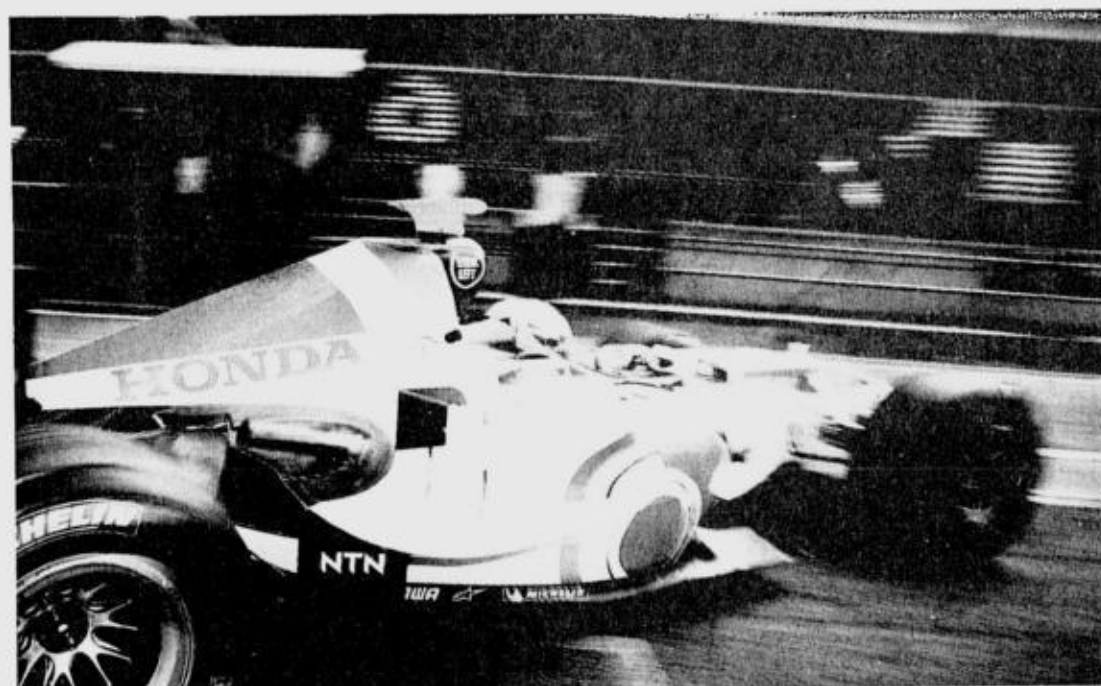
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Constituent assembly plan won't stop political dynasties

From page A1

back to the status quo of holding the pivotal midterm elections in May, a contingency for which pushers of Con-ass is not ruling out as a fallback position in the event of their defeat in the showdown over their offensive.

Success of the Con-ass drive, on other hand, clears the way for a new set of parliamentary elections of deputies to a single-chamber legislature under a transformed political system.

Whatever elections will take place—either under the prevailing or a superseded Constitution—we will be deluding ourselves to expect a profound reform in the political system as a consequence of the shift to the parliamentary system. We cannot expect a fundamental change if the May elections are cancelled to make way for the transition to the parliamentary system.

Assuming the Con-ass succeeds, the change is illusionary and involves merely a smoke-and-mirror self-deception. This prognosis is based on the grounds that the new parliamentary deputies to be elected, as well as the members of Congress (in both the House of Representatives and the Senate) of the system sought to be replaced, are going to recruited from the same matrix composed of and dominated by the political elite, most of them holding power for at least two generations.

A scan of the profile of the current members of Congress, whose term ends in May, shows that 64 lawmakers are ending their third term, comprising 28 percent of the 232-seat House. Most of these incumbents are likely to run for deputies in the new parliamentary system, as well as most of the first- and second-termers.

Breakaway from tradition

In the current Congress, the composition according to age groups suggests areas of innovations and modernizing outlook breaking way from the traditional mold of politics.

This Congress is not a young legislature compared with the National Assembly during the first three decades of legislative regimes, from 1907 to the Commonwealth government's inauguration in 1935. At least half of the assemblymen during that period were between 30 and 40 years of age, suggesting dynamism and receptivity to change in outlook.

In the current House, only 3 percent are below 35 years old; 22 percent, between 35 and 44 years old; 23 percent, 45-54 years old; 31 percent, 55-64 years old, and 20 percent are 65 years old and above.

These data indicate that more than half of the House are composed of middle-aged and more senior members, an ingredient of conservatism. There appears to be a small infusion of new blood in the legislature.

The turnover in the House is far from dynamic. Only 36 percent are first-termers, and 37 percent second-termers.

Dynastic profile

The dynastic profile is widespread in the House elections, where more lengthy tenure gives incumbents advantages of entrenching themselves in power due to patronage largesse to their electorates. It also reinforces dynasty building, where spouses succeed one another in alternating switches, and where children or siblings of power holders take over vacated posts.

The dynastic feature of the parliamentary recruitment field is also pronounced in the Senate elections, an upward mobility path for senior incumbent congressmen ending their third term.

The survey findings of Pulse Asia (Oct. 21-Nov. 8, 2006) is revealing. On the list of 64 people surveyed on senatorial preferences, names associated with political families comprise a significant portion of the field.

Among those with political family associations were Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, former Sen. John Osmeña, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito-Estrada, Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon, re-electionist Sen. Luisa P. Estrada, Rep. Aquilino Pimentel III, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, former Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, and Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, son of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

None from private sector

Most of the 64 have legislative experiences in either the House or Senate, or in the executive department as Cabinet members, mayors or governors. Politicians dominated the list in public awareness of their political profiles. A number are former congressmen seeking a political comeback or incumbents in the Senate likely to seek reelection. The political class is more than amply represented—in fact, overrepresented—in the survey.

There was scarcely a name from the private or business sector on the list, although it might be a heartening sign that only two names from show biz made the list—actor Richard Gomez and Korina Sanchez.

There are already three Senate incumbents associated with show biz—Ramon Revilla Jr., Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada and Manuel Lapid. The show biz representation in the Senate is not famous for a high level of legislative output either in the committees, where most of the work is done, or in the plenary debates.

Whether the survey is indicative of an antiadministration mood in the midterm

election and of its defeat in the Senate is another matter.

An antiadministration sweep in the Senate in the May election is an over-optimistic expectation. Despite the series of administration setbacks during the past two years in the Supreme Court over executive abuse of

power and political liberties issues, there is no powerful polarizing issue inflaming public outrage in the category of the Plaza Miranda grenade bombing in 1971 that decimated the Liberal Party leadership, resulting in the near LP sweep of the senatorial election that year.

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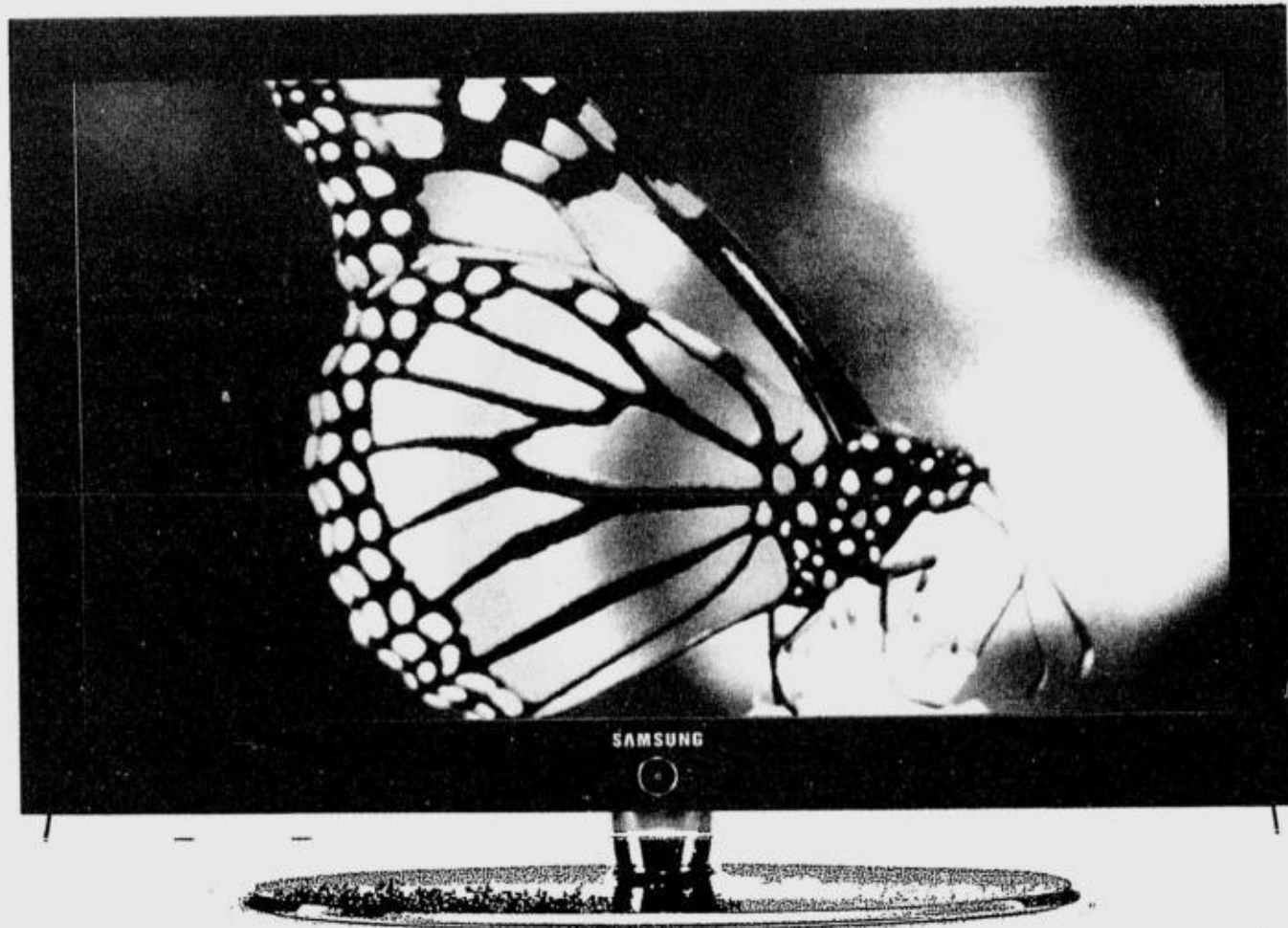
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4 American Marines face judgment today

From page A1

beyond reasonable doubt. I hope the judge will apply that and render a judgment of conviction."

The defense panel believes it has established the Americans' innocence.

"It was consensual sex and there was no rape. We have presented a good defense and we are hoping for an acquittal, of course," said defense lawyer Benjamin Formoso.

The last word

In the end, the 54-year-old Pozon, a University of the East law graduate, will have the final word.

Pozon has declined requests for media interviews in the run-up to today's promulgation. This is his first rape case.

Controversial VFA

Pozon, who has taken about two months to deliberate on his decision, earlier set the promulgation of judgment on Nov. 27, but rescheduled it, citing voluminous court records he had to pore over so he could "render [a] fair and just decision."

While handling hundreds of other pending cases, the court also had to contend with provisions of the VFA.

The VFA stipulates that Philip-

pine courts must render a decision on cases against American servicemen within a year or else lose the authority to compel them to appear in court.

The United States cited the VFA in keeping custody of the servicemen since the alleged rape took place. Officials of the two countries have differed in their interpretations of the agreement.

No end in sight

Whatever the decision, the drama the case has generated is not about to end, Ursua said.

If the four Marines are convicted, an appeal is expected and the issue of their custody will again crop up, she said.

"The case of Nicole illustrates the fraud that was perpetrated on us by the VFA," Ursua said. "The language of the VFA is very ambiguous. Whatever happens to the case, there must be a discussion on what to do with the treaty. We sold out to them ... We surrendered our sovereignty."

Formoso said the Philippine and US governments must discuss the issue of custody if, "God forbid," the accused were convicted.

Still, he said: "We've done our best to defend our clients."

Nicole's trauma

Ursua said a conviction would help Nicole recover from the trauma she had endured.

"It will be easier for her to move on ... For every rape survivor, a conviction is a critical step in healing and recovery," Ursua said.

What if the decision goes the other way?

"An acquittal will be devastating emotionally, mentally, psychologically and financially. What she has invested in this case

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED DURING THE SUBIC RAPE TRIAL			
	Prosecution	Defense	
Allegations	Smith and Nicole first met at the Neptune Club, a Subic nightclub, when the soldier pulled her toward him on the dance floor.	Nicole approached Smith on a hallway inside the bar and agreed to join the serviceman in his table. They danced and later kissed and flirted.	
Allegations	A visibly drunk Nicole was carried into the Starax van on Smith's back. The soldier even told the bar's security guard: "She's with me, we're gonna go now."	Nicole stepped into the van on her own feet and willingly sat beside Smith on the van's backseat.	
Allegations	Smith raped Nicole as Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and their superior officer, Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, egged him on.	Complainant and Smith had consensual sex. The other accused did not cheer on Smith: Carpentier was concerned about the younger Marines, his wards, meeting their midnight curfew, while Duplantis and Silkwood were already drunk while seated on the van's second row of seats, their backs turned to Smith and Nicole.	
Allegations	Nicole could not have consented to sex as she was dead drunk.	Nicole was a willing partner and coherent during that time. She even asked Smith, "Are you already done?" during the act.	
Allegations	Toxicology analysis, which was based on witness descriptions of her demeanor at the bar minutes before the incident, proves her drunkenness. Ice content of drinks she had did not matter.	Nicole's toxicology analysis did not consider the amount of ice put into every drink she had and the time interval between every glass of alcoholic beverage she downed.	
Allegations	After the rape, Nicole was dumped "like a pig" at the Alava Pier, a short walk from where the accused's ship, the USS Essex, was docked.	Nicole got off the van on her own. Smith even tried to hail her a cab even while he and his comrades were rushing back to the ship to meet their midnight curfew.	
Allegations	Nicole sustained injuries in her arms, legs and genitals that were consistent with her allegation of rape.	Nicole lacked injuries typical of a rape victim. Her contusions could also have been sustained during consensual sex.	
Allegations	Smith's DNA was found in the pair of panties Nicole was wearing at the time of the incident; Nicole's DNA was found in her panties and the condom used in the alleged rape.	The exchange of bodily fluids could have occurred in a consensual intercourse. The male and female DNA profiles may have come from bodily fluids other than those related to a sexual act.	

TARRA V. QUISMUNDO

is no joke. She and her family have lost income simply attending to the case," said Ursua.

Ursua claimed clearing the accused "will set a precedent for future cases."

"If Americans again rape a Filipino anywhere, what do you think will be the attitude of the victim? They will say, 'Remember Nicole? How she failed in proving her case and how she was pilloried in public?'" said Ursua.

For his part, For-

moso said that "as long as the rule of law is applied, there will be no problem."

Militant groups are expected to troop to the old Makati City Hall to rally behind Nicole.

Securing the parties

Supt. Gilbert Cruz, city police chief, said some 200 policemen would secure the premises.

Makati's Special Weapons and Tactics team will serve as close-in security for the accused. Police officers will also be designated to secure Nicole.

The Americans' spiritual advis-

er, Fr. James Reuter, SJ, a long-time Philippine resident, said the four were hoping all of them would be acquitted.

"They're tense. The most tense was Danny. Dominic, he was smiling for the first time and he participated in our discussion. He usually doesn't talk," said Reuter, who visited the accused at the US Embassy on Saturday.

Reuter said it made the four accused "feel bad" to see the anti-US demonstrations that the case had stirred.

"The problem is, the case has been turned into the 'aggressive,

superior

United States oppressing the poor, weak Philippines.' But no, this case is not a question between the US versus the Philippines. This case is a question of justice," said the 90-year-old priest, who has long served in the Philippines.

In their discussion, Reuter said it was Silkwood who pointed out the essence of "letting go" and committing one's self to one's faith.

He said Silkwood, a Protestant, recounted the biblical story of a man who fell off a cliff, hung on to a branch for a day, and wouldn't listen to the voice that told him to let go.

The next morning, the man found out that the ground beneath him was a mere foot below.

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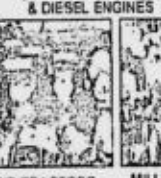
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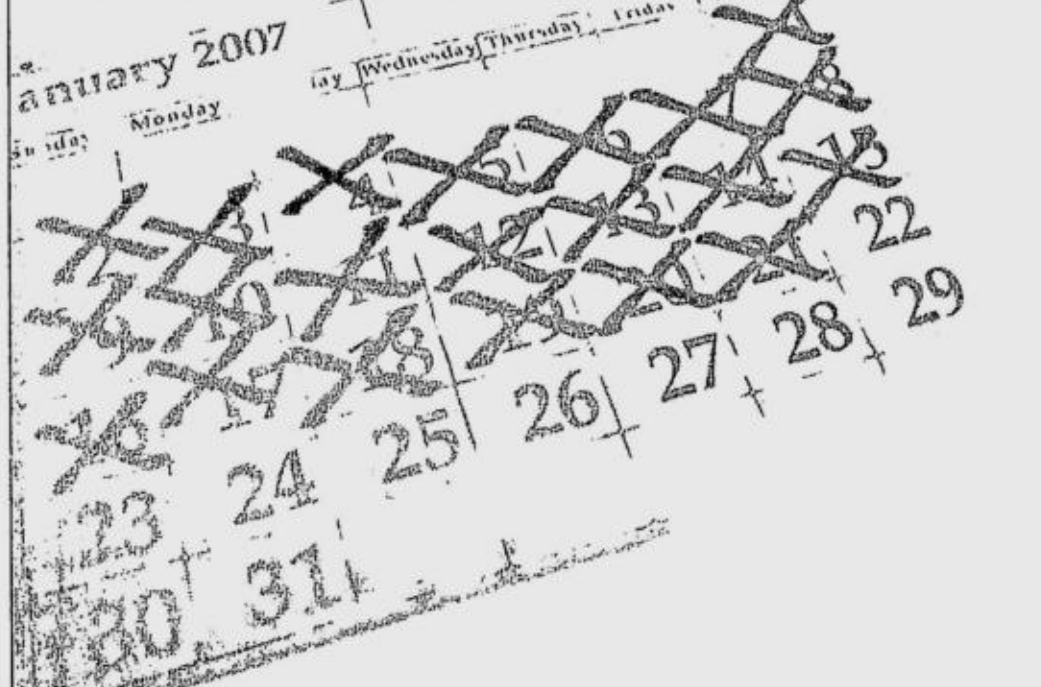
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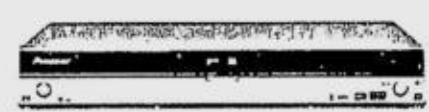




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Breast-feeding backers step up fight vs comm'l greed

By Christian V. Esguerra

LOCAL ADVOCACY GROUPS HAVE stepped up their offensive against giant international milk formula companies, forming what they called a "grand alliance" against corporate greed and predatory commercial interests.

The coalition of at least 11 Filipino groups is backed by counterparts from Geneva, London, Boston and Canada, such as the Baby Milk Action and the Infant Feeding Action Coalition (Infact) and the International Baby Food Action Network (Ibfan).

Local members include Nurturers of the Earth Inc., Arugaan, Liga ng mga Barangay ng Pilipinas, Philippine Pharmaceutical Association, Pro-Life and Our Lady of La Leche Movement.

Objective

The alliance's primary goal is to take milk formula companies to task for alleged violations of Executive Order No. 51 or the Milk Code.

Nona Andaya-Castillo, director of Nurturers of the Earth Inc., said she had been monitoring "palpable violations" of the Milk Code by infant formula companies since 1977.

She cited the provisions barring companies from giving "directly or indirectly gifts of any sort" to the general public or to pregnant and nursing mothers. She mentioned one American company, which allegedly sponsored a "Parenting 101" class for parents at a top hospital in Pasig City.

Dr. Elvira Henares-Esguerra, director of Children for Breastfeeding Inc., was unfazed by the existing temporary restraining order imposed by the Supreme Court on the revised implementing rules and regulations of the Milk Code.

Morality

"This is a public health issue, a moral issue involving public good versus private gain, and public health against corporate greed," she said in the alliance's statement to the INQUIRER.

The coalition is banking on the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 to prosecute milk companies. The group said the law imposed an audit procedure that could purportedly catch an "improper payment of even one paper clip."

Latest supporters

Using the act as basis, "the coalition hopes to send at least one official of a US milk company in the Philippines to jail with the help of the US Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission," it said in a statement.

A key backer of the new coalition is the

Framework Convention Alliance of Geneva, Switzerland and the Public Health Advocacy Institute of Boston. It described the Massachusetts-based group as the "most successful health lobby in the history of advocacy."

The coalition said the two groups had

promised to lend their expertise in instituting class suits against milk companies over the deaths of around 16,000 babies yearly.

The World Health Organization and other advocacy groups had warned that 16,000 babies died annually because

they were not breast-fed.

Follow conscience

Esguerra said milk companies should "follow their conscience" and cease challenging the IRR drafted by the Department of Health.

The DOH earlier came under pressure from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America whose president and chief executive officer, Thomas Donahue, had raised the issue to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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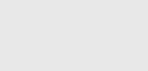
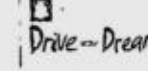
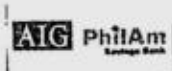
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it was deadly—a nighttime assault on the rebel Abu Sayyaf Group cloaked in smothering jungle foliage on the restive southern island of Jolo.

"We got within five or 10 meters before they even knew we were there," recounted Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, after a briefing over coffee and bananas on the edge of the former Abu Sayyaf Group

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, back in Manila. "You win the war when the population says we are not particularly interested in being part of that."

Still, the [military] are well aware they will be judged on whether they capture or kill top ASG leaders and a handful of their Indonesian comrades, suspects in the deadly Bali bombings and other attacks. All are believed to be hid-

When it was over, half a dozen ASG militants were dead and the rest had scattered, leaving behind a trove of food, medicine and supplies, ready-made bombs and bomb-making material. There was one army

vision goggles and training provided by the United States military had turned the tables on the Abu Sayyaf, who had long used their knowledge of the terrain in its campaign of kidnapping, murder and extortion.

"They may own the

Own the night," Saban said, surrounded by a detail of Marines. US Special Forces, advisers to the Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP), kept watch nearby.

Not isolated

American officials say any success on the ground against

other militants in the predominantly Muslim southern Philippines is not about isolated tactical victories.

"You win the war on terrorism not on

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Clearinghouse

Some of these trends were already in place but Sept. 11 con-

Wild analysts say that become a "terrorist clearinghouse" in the southern Philippines.

Local groups hosted the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, the biggest militant organization in Southeast Asia, exchanged know-how and regrouped out of sight of law enforcement.

derway with the MILF and a successful cleanup operation on the nearby island of Basilan, the island of Jolo, in the southern Sulu archipelago remains the last major holdout. Reuters'

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of Jolo, in the southern Sulu archipelago remains the last major holdout. **Reuters'**

of Jolo, in the southern Sulu archipelago remains the last major holdout. **Reuters'**

Reds take break to help victims of Typhoon 'Reming'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines has called on its armed wing, the New People's Army, and allied forces to express their sympathy to the victims of "Reming" by helping them recover from the devastation wrought by the super typhoon.

In a statement furnished the INQUIRER, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal announced that guerrillas operating in Albay, Masbate, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur and Norte provinces in the Bicol region and Quezon province in Southern Tagalog and other typhoon-affected areas had been ordered to prioritize the organization and coordination of relief efforts to ensure that food and other assistance went to the intended victims.

Avoid pilferage

Rosal said the revolutionary forces were ready to work with other people's organizations, medical groups and institutions as well as local and international relief agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He advised the agencies contributing relief goods to course their assistance through volunteer nongovernment organizations in order to avoid pilferage and the loss of most of the goods in the government bureaucracy.

He claimed that during the evacuation of Mayon volcano several months ago, more than half of the canned goods intended for the evacuees got "lost and unaccounted for" in government channels along the way.

Rosal also criticized the local government and other agencies concerned for allegedly failing to immediately alert the residents and evacuate them despite warnings of the possibility of lahar slides around Mayon volcano.

"National authorities have been fully aware that the buildup of volcanic debris along the slopes of Mayon, since the height of its volcanic activity the past several months, was a disaster waiting to happen," he said.

Poor peasants

Rosal noted the great majority of the typhoon and lahar slide victims were poor peasants whose situation had been made even worse by the disaster.

He cited the International Red Cross "2005 Disaster Report" which stated that the impact of natural disasters "aggravate pre-existing poverty, creating a downward spiral of vulnerability, arresting development."

The IRC noted that some 6 million Filipinos, mostly the poorest, had suffered death, injury and loss of livelihood, homes and property because of natural and manmade calamities in the decades since the early '90s.

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DPWH, Phivolcs blamed for deaths

From page A1

rivers of mud that had cascaded down Mayon volcano, cutting through fields of palay and coconut trees in Guinobatan, Daraga and Legazpi.

The biggest shock was the sight of a wide expanse of Guinobatan covered by mudflows and littered with boulders. There, no more trees or houses stood. The town at the foot of the volcano had become a virtual wasteland.

'Worse than Milenyo'

"Everything disappeared," Gordon remarked during the aerial survey, shaking his head.

In other places, houses with tin roofs blown off, tangles of fallen trees and downed power lines, and fields dotted with coconut trees with limping branches were a common sight.

"This is worse than Typhoon 'Milenyo' and the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. It killed more people, it destroyed more property and it put the province on its knees," said Gordon.

Among Albay's towns, Guinobatan sustained the highest number of fatalities.

Phivolcs should explain

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said Phivolcs officials had a lot of explaining to do.

"Like a femme fatale, Mayon is the culprit. Reming just pulled the trigger to the humanitarian disaster in Albay," said Salceda, who believed that the crisis was preventable if Phivolcs had advised a forced evacuation.

He noted that the weather bureau had announced as early as Nov. 27 that a supertyphoon would hit the country.

"That should have triggered Phivolcs to issue an alert on possible lahar flows. Yet it was clear that the areas hit by Mayon's lahar were beyond the extended 8-kilometer permanent danger zone which would have been covered by Alert 4, the highest issued during Mayon's eruptions," Salceda said.

Lethal combination

Salceda said mudflows and a supertyphoon with a 466-mm rainfall (a 40-year high), plus wind gusts of 265 kph, were a "lethal combination."

"But it was preventable with an early warning (and a) response of a forced evacuation. Pagasa's warning came but Phivolcs didn't, so there was no forced evacuation by local government units. Loss of lives was indubitably unnecessary," Salceda said.

He said only a full investigation "can do justice if only to elicit lessons and corrective measures."

Salceda noted that all of Albay's 15 towns and three cities uniformly reported to the National Disaster Coordinating Council chest-deep flooding.

"But why are the casualties concentrated only in Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga, Legazpi and Sto. Domingo towns? They are all in the southeast quadrant of Mayon," he said.

"They all had evacuations last July to September. All affected barangays were in the vicinity of Mayon. Ergo, Reming caused the floods but Mayon's lahar caused the deaths."

'I couldn't believe it was my son'

From page A1

Two of her sisters and a niece were also killed, crushed under a fallen coconut tree. Her mother was still missing.

All of Sally's relatives were among the dozens of people killed in the avalanche of mud and rocks that swamped Barangay Padang, 8 kilometers from the city proper and one of the areas hardest hit by Reming.

Sally's son lay on the floor of Bejer Basco Funeral Parlor because there were no available coffins for children.

Parlor owner Merly Bejer said this was the first time in her 10 years in the business that the parlor had embalmed so many bodies in a day.

"Although we would profit from it, we are not happy because of what happened," she said.

Another woman survivor said she was carried 8 km away from her house by the flood, but suffered only bruises.

Because of the mud and the fallen electric posts, a portion of the road between Barangay Bigaa Padang had become a dead-end for motorists and people had to walk.

Along the way, rescue teams plodded on, carrying stretchers with bodies covered with blankets.

McDave Nuez, 18, of Barangay Busay in Daraga, showed no emotion as he wrote the name "Janine" on a piece of paper.

The paper would serve as a label on her sister's body that lay amid hundreds of other bodies bloated and coated with dried mud at the garage of Nuestra Señora de Salvacion Funeral Home.

McDave, the eldest in the family, had just arrived from Manila, where he had been working. He rushed home after getting a text message that his whole family—seven siblings and his two parents—were trapped inside their house when it was struck by mud flows from Mayon volcano.

He was able to identify one of his five sisters but he had not found the bodies of his parents, four sisters and two brothers.

"I still cannot believe that they are gone," he said.

Tsunami scares Albay folk

By Joanna Los Baños
and Job Belen
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—MISTAKING AN unusually low tide for a tsunami, thousands of panic-stricken villagers in this coastal city and neighboring towns ran as far as they could from their villages that face the Albay Gulf.

The mass hysteria lasted for about 30 minutes yesterday.

Vehicles packed with people gripped with fear were all blowing their horns as they crowded Rizal Street, heading toward the neighboring town of Daraga, while many others, old and young people alike, fled on foot.

Some vehicles, especially motorcycles, got involved in smashups.

One driver was seen hastily leaving his car in a street corner when it got stuck in a traffic.

The panic started when coastal villagers observed that the waters had receded at "unusually low levels," making them think a tsunami was about to strike Albay.

Wilhelm Garan, 27, of Barangay Barriada

here, was inside his house when he saw people running and cars speeding in Daraga.

"I immediately went out to check what the commotion was about," he said.

After finding out that there was a tsunami coming, he immediately went to where his sister and her son were in their store. On the way, cars were seen bumper to bumper as they were all trying to go to higher ground.

"At that time, I already decided that if the tsunami hit, I would go to the nearest high ground that I see," he said.

After finding out that it was a false alarm, he felt disappointed. "But we cannot really blame the people for believing such a thing as they just experienced a typhoon," he said.

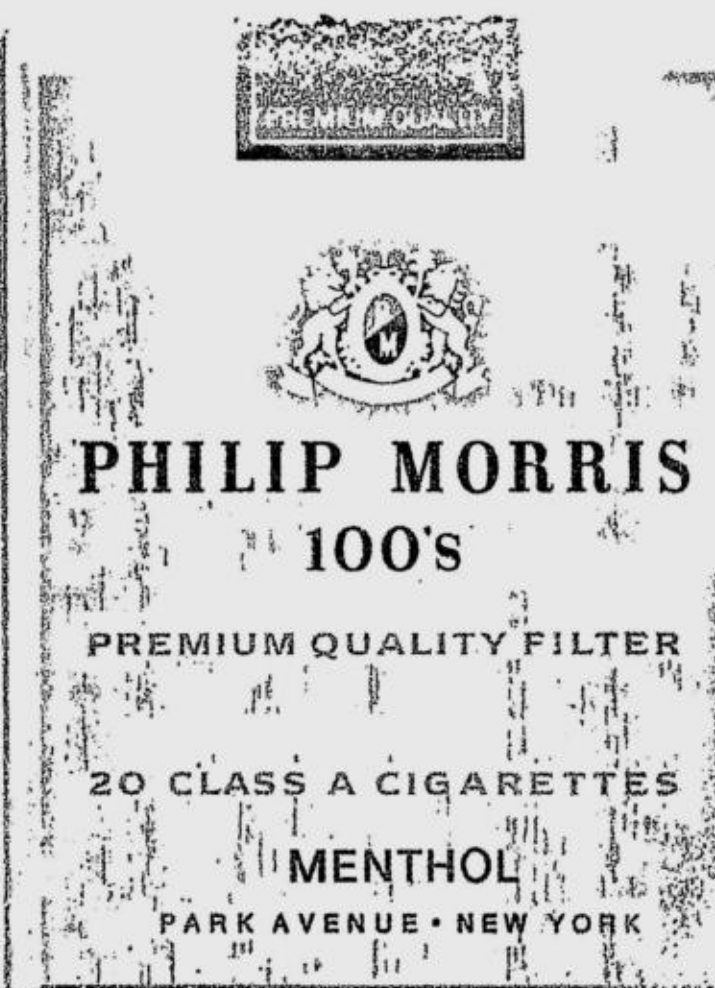
On Peñaranda Street, people were running toward downtown, many of them barefoot. Some were seen carrying their elderly relatives as others became hysterical. Still others were simply pale-faced and shaking.

Hundreds of people sought refuge at the public market and packed its upper floors.

One woman was seen lugging a cabinet which, she said, was all she was able to carry.



SOLDIERS dig at a river bank where six students were believed to have been buried after a school building collapsed in Legazpi City.



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ed after their dormitory
REUTERS

From page A1
open up the country to offers of international assistance.

P12-B emergency fund

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. proposed an emergency P12-billion fund to rebuild and resettle damaged areas in Bicol and adjoining Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

De Venecia said the fund, to be approved by Congress, would come from realignments in the 2007 budget, special funds, global grants, official development assistance and concessional loans.

As of yesterday noon, the number of fatalities in Albay had risen to 406, the missing to 398, and the injured to 489, according to the Philippine National Red Cross.

"If you add up the number of the dead and missing, you're hitting 800," Sen. Richard Gordon said in an interview.

The final toll could even outstrip 1,000, but

the true figure would probably never be known, said Gordon, the Red Cross chair.

Many villages had not yet reported how many residents had died and in some cases, whole families had been buried by torrents of mud and ash triggered by Reming, he said. "Many are saying the death toll could exceed 1,000."

The disaster comes after some 30,000 people were evacuated from the slopes of Mayon amid signs that the volcano was erupting. However, the residents were allowed to return home in September after Mayon simmered down.

Gordon said that at one funeral parlor, 40 bodies had gone unclaimed. "If they are unclaimed, it is likely their relatives were buried as well," he said.

2 foreigners missing

Hopes of finding survivors have faded. In a rare case, residents of the riverside village of Rawis used hand tools in a desper-

ate attempt to reach five college students believed trapped under a ruined dormitory.

Among the missing were two foreigners.

The Red Cross yesterday said it was asked to try and find Brecon Weyan, 24, of Australia, and John Cochran, 59, of New Zealand, who were on their way to Sorsogon, when Reming struck on Thursday.

The last contact from them was on Thursday morning but it was not certain where they were at the time, the Red Cross said.

The NDCC has come up with casualty figures different from those of the Red Cross.

Rabonza said the number of casualties as of noon yesterday was 310 dead, 414 injured and 298 missing in Southern Tagalog (Region 4-A), Mimaropa (4-B) and Bicol (5).

In Albay, the NDCC said 285 died in Daraga, Sto. Domingo and Guinobatan towns, and in Legazpi and Tabaco cities.

In Catanduanes, Reming killed 11 people, injured 90 others, and devastated crops,

property and infrastructure worth hundreds of millions of pesos, according to Rep. Joseph Santiago.

90% of homes damaged

Santiago, who represents the province's lone congressional district, said "90 percent of all homes, as well as nonresidential structures in five towns—the provincial capital of Virac, Baras, Bato, San Andres and San Miguel—sustained considerable damage."

Classes in all public schools in the five towns have been suspended for the coming week. "Like most homes, schools have no roofs. Supervisors are trying to find temporary cover, and will likely hold classes two days at best per week due to the limited usable rooms," he said in a statement.

"Right now, the province is totally without electricity since virtually all poles were toppled. We still have generating capacity, but there is no distribution capacity to speak of," he said.

As of Sunday, only one of the usual four boats was servicing passengers and shipments between Virac and Tabaco. The three other vessels got tangled in the harbors where they sought refuge at the height of the typhoon.

"We are appealing for help. What the people need most are food first, because even our rice and other produce stocks were ruined, and roofing materials second, so residents can begin living safely in their homes," Santiago said.

C-130 sorties

Rabonza said the NDCC was rushing food, shelter items, medicine and clothing to the affected areas.

Yesterday, C-130 cargo airplanes had flown five sorties to Bicol and other affected provinces, like Catanduanes. Each sortie carried at least 30 metric tons of aid, he said.

"We are bringing relief supplies as fast as we can and we have cleared major roads to make aid accessible. These places are hard to reach but we are reaching them now," Rabonza said.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has committed two C-130 transport aircraft, six UH-1H Huey helicopters, and five teams from the 505th Search and Rescue Group and its affiliated volunteers for what it has described as a "massive disaster relief effort."

Over the weekend, Air Force men have rescued two children and recovered 40 bodies in Guinobatan, Albay.

The PAF has ferried a total of 177,300 pounds of search and rescue equipment, as well as relief goods that included sacks of rice, noodles, canned goods, tents, and clothing for the typhoon victims, to hard-hit Legazpi City, Albay and Virac, Catanduanes.

The PAF said in a statement that Huey choppers from the Air Force's 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing based in Mactan, Cebu, had been deployed to the Legazpi-based Tactical Operations Group 5 "at the disposal of the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council."

Rabonza said the water supply in Bicol was "critical" but that the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the NDCC were moving to get water from Quezon and Sorsogon.

Fuel is also in short supply in the region, but Rabonza said Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla assured him that fuel supplies will be made available.

The NDCC expects power to return in two weeks.

Rescue teams

Rabonza said a sufficient number of rescue teams were on hand, including the Southern Leyte Rescue Team, which helped in the search and rescue operations in the mudslide in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte, last year. (Story in *Across the Nation*, Page A20.)

Also participating in the operations are rescue teams from the Philippine Mining Safety and Environment Association, Lafayette Mining Corp. and Atlas Mining Corp.

On Saturday afternoon, in Guinobatan, the people had yet to bury some of their dead because some of the bodies had yet to be identified.

Outside a funeral parlor in Barangay Ilawod, a handful of bodies lay covered in blue cloths, waiting to be lifted into the white coffins stacked near them. Their stench assaulted passersby and motorists.

Farther down the road, in the town plaza, several more bodies lay waiting to be buried.

"Our problem is how to bury all of them in our small public cemetery," Mayor Juan Mayor Juan Garcia said.

Food, water, clothing

Beyond such concerns, residents of Guinobatan and elsewhere in Albay clamored for basic necessities, such as food and temporary shelter.

"We need everything here, especially food," said Teresa Moral, 34, a mother of 4-year-old twins, who showed up at a stadium in Guinobatan to see off Gordon.

The same plea for relief goods was heard in Barangay Binitayan, Daraga.

"We need food, water and anything for our everyday use like clothes," said Rufino Mabalin, 33, whose house and *sari-sari* store were buried in mud.

On Saturday, the Red Cross airlifted loads of noodles and canned goods for 1,000 families in barangays battered by the typhoon. Bags of rice were also distributed. With reports from Michael Ubac, Nikko Dizon, AP and AFP

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Daylight luminous

THE JUDICIARY IS NOT ONLY "THE LEAST dangerous" branch; the chief justice is also the weakest of the heads of the coordinate branches of government. Unlike the Cabinet or the various leadership caucuses in Congress, the Supreme Court is truly a collegial body. And unlike the president, the Senate president or the speaker of the House, the chief justice is merely first among equals.

EDITORIAL And yet the lessons of tradition as well as the very character of leadership tell us that the first among equals often exercises a level of influence out of proportion to his position. In a deep sense, that character is moral in nature, the kind that persuades one's colleagues to see things in a particular way.

That is why it is common practice to refer to, say, the Davide court, as though the decisions of the high court from 1999 to 2005 somehow reflect the vision or the sense of values of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Or why in years to come we will all be referring to the great decisions of 2006 (including some extraordinary concurring and dissenting opinions) as the true legacy of the Court under Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban. Or why, at this late stage in our collective journey to democratic maturity, the choice of the next chief justice is a true crossroads.

Does it surprise anyone, then, that at this particular intersection in our history, Malacañang has decided to play politics?

As Panganiban's retirement nears, the Palace has resorted to its trial balloon method of gauging popular and party opinion. A high official, speaking on condition of anonymity, has floated the name of Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno as the President's first choice for chief justice. The official's explanation is transparently meant for the consumption of the President's increasingly harried allies.

"She said it would politically be very helpful to her if she appoints Puno," the official said. Political help, the source added, was "just a euphemism for him [that is to say, Justice Puno] promising to support Cha-cha" or Charter change.

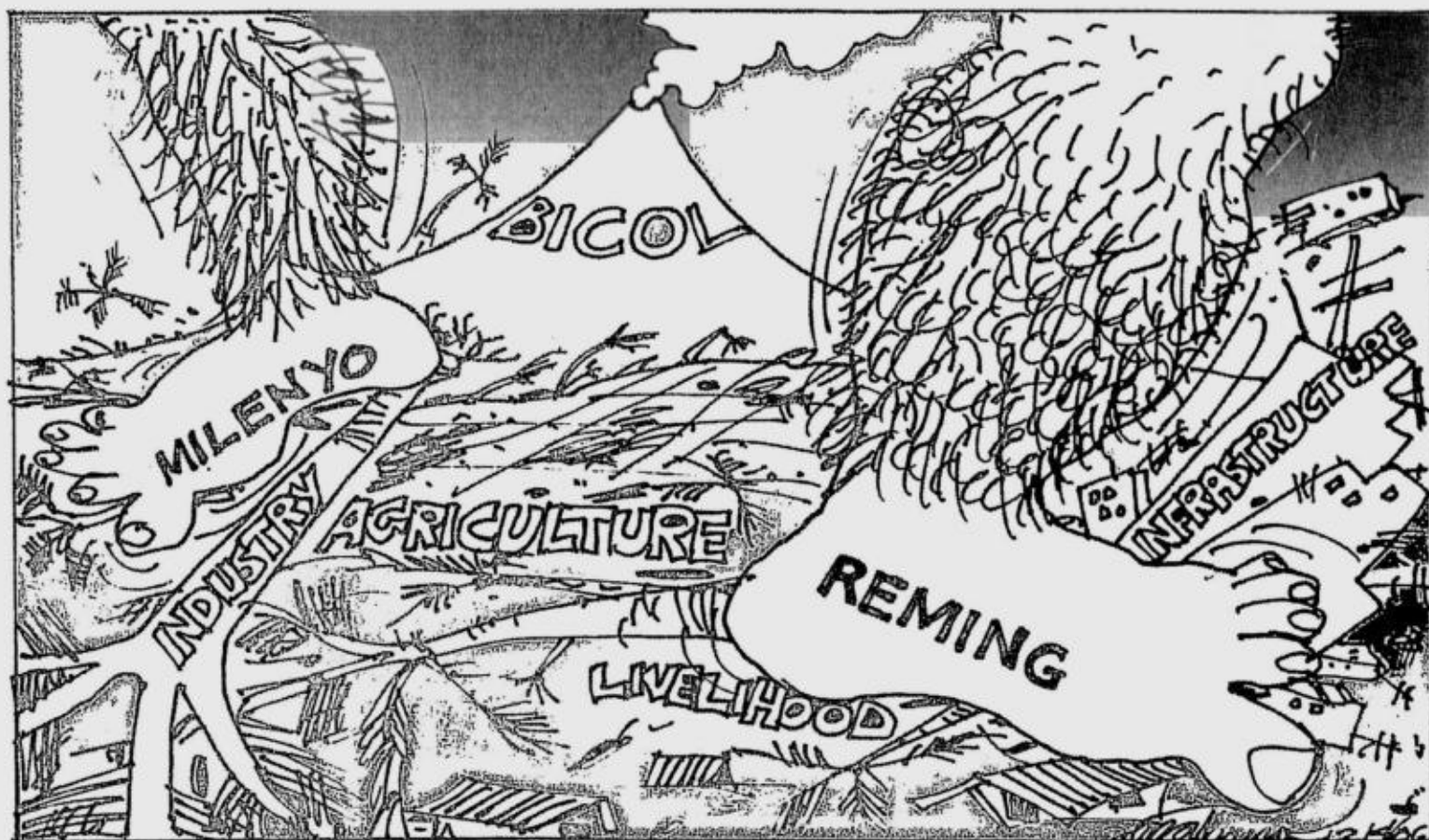
In certain circles, of course, this is high praise, the epitome of realpolitik. A high court official, compromising judicial independence, has been persuaded to commit political support for a controversial policy. Except that we have reason to believe no such exchange of promises took place.

It is likely that President Macapagal-Arroyo, like President Joseph Estrada in 1999, has already determined the best person for the job. Unlike Estrada in 1999, however, Ms Arroyo in 2006 feels compelled to present her choice, to her political allies, as politically inspired.

She is doing a grave disservice to Puno, who is truly qualified to lead the Supreme Court for the next four years. The Palace spin revolves around Puno's lengthy and impassioned dissent in the Lambino vs Comelec case. Much has been made of Puno's finding that the people's initiative law is actually adequate, and that the Sigaw ng Bayan campaign to change the Constitution through just such an initiative should be remanded to the Commission on Elections for further proceedings. "When laws are challenged as unconstitutional, courts are counseled to give life to the intent of legislators. In enacting RA 6735, it is daylight luminous that Congress intended the said law to implement the right of the people, thru initiative, to propose amendments to the Constitution by direct action." Even more has been said about Puno's ringing affirmation that the "first principle enthroned by blood in our Constitution is the sovereignty of the people."

But context is all. Puno, it is good to remember, was the ponente of the landmark Estrada vs Arroyo case, which used the "totality test" to affirm the legitimacy of the Edsa II transition and then courageously cautioned the country's leaders against the "hooting throng." He wrote: "Nor are rights necessarily resolved by the power of number for in a democracy, the dogmatism of the majority is not and should never be the definition of the rule of law. If democracy has proved to be the best form of government, it is because it has respected the right of the minority to convince the majority that it is wrong."

At a time when Malacañang and its allies put all their faith in sheer number, especially in the House, we take comfort in these words that Palace allies would rather have us forget. They strike us as a guarantee against "express-train" politics.



Bicameral gov't still the best for us

THE MORE PRO-ADMINISTRATION Congressmen try to convince us that we should change the Constitution to effect a shift to a parliamentary system of government, the more the people are convinced that we should not. Why? Because by their forced arguments and "illogical logic," they are showing that they, the present congressmen, are the worst people who can monkey around with the Constitution. If this were a basketball game, their persistence can be called "forcing through."

What they're proving is that a unicameral legislature, such as what they're advocating, could be the worst thing for us—especially if they were to remain as members of Parliament. They are showing how, under a unicameral system of government, we would be at the mercy of Ali Baba and his thieves or, worse, of the Mafia.

The congressmen are showing that they will push through with what they want even if the people don't want it as shown by the surveys. They're supposed to be the representatives of the people, but they're working only for themselves—and to hell with the people.

A change in the Constitution may be more acceptable to the people if it is done through an elected constitutional convention. But the congressmen don't want that. They want to be the ones to mangle the Charter because they have selfish motives. They want to shape it to their advantage.

The Cha-cha train is straining uphill, against an air of desperation after the defeat of the people's initiative in the Supreme Court, and with the campaign period for the 2007 midterm elections fast catching up with it. Congressmen will soon have to go back to their districts to start campaigning for reelection or for other positions.

The Cha-cha train engineers have become desperate because the surveys show that administration candidates will be massacred in next year's polls. And it is not only because being associated with the most hated person in the Philippines will be a kiss of death; it is also because two-thirds of the congressmen and lo-

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



cal government officials are on their last terms and cannot run for reelection. On the other hand, being an opposition candidate anywhere has an added appeal to voters because this administration is so widely hated.

The surveys show, for example, that the winners in the senatorial election, if held today, would be opposition candidates. Not one Cabinet member or administration candidate is in the winning circle or even near it. The best performer in the polls among administration candidates is Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, but he is way down out of the Magic 12. Other Cabinet members—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the two Gonzalezes, Raul and Norberto, etc.—would end up, the surveys show, in the "pusali." That is why, with the exception of Defensor, nobody in the administration wants to admit he is running next year.

The administration's problem now is how to prevent the onrushing debacle. There is only one way: postpone the elections. And that gives urgency to the Cha-cha. If the constituent assembly is able to push the Cha-cha through, the polls will be postponed. The present congressmen and local government officials will get a bonus extension of their terms, gratis. Then they, as the Isterim Parliament, can craft the new Constitution any way they want for their own benefit. They will increase their salaries and allowances, they will remove the term limits, they will remove the ban on political dynasties, they will increase taxes—it would be like opening the bank vault to the thieves.

It is basic in legislation that legislators cannot pass laws that benefit themselves. But the pre-

sent congressmen will pass all the laws that will benefit themselves. They are that "garapal."

Imagine what would happen if we had a unicameral legislature. Don't tell me that parliaments have worked well in other countries. If they did, it's because they don't have the kind of congressmen that we have. In other countries, legislators may engage in fisticuffs every so often, but at least they hurt only one another. Filipino congressmen hurt everybody else by putting their greedy hands in other people's pockets.

One of the two prosperous Prosperos in the House of Representatives (Pichay, the other is surnamed Nograles) told a forum last Saturday that a new Parliament would have a prime minister, a speaker and a president. President Macapagal-Arroyo would continue as president and chief executive, he said.

Ganun pala! Why change the Charter at all if we would continue to have GMA as President, Joe de Venecia as Speaker, and Prospero Pichay as prime minister? That would be going from bad to worse. Then we would have the Three Stooges running the country.

In other words, a parliamentary government will achieve nothing for us; but it will abolish the Senate and allow the congressmen to run wild and loot the nation blind. And that would be the only change we will have in such a system. *Tuloy ang ligaya* for the rest of the gang.

So it has become clear that we need the Senate now more than ever. It is the only body—short of a coup or a full-blown revolution—that can temper the abuses of the House and the executive. The Supreme Court is too slow and its members may be tempted and co-opted by the executive.

In short, the present Constitution and a bicameral legislature, even with all their imperfections, are still the best for us. We can improve the Charter later on, after the present congressmen are out of power. Then we can amend the Charter leisurely, carefully and responsibly. In writing constitutions, haste still makes waste.

Devil to pay

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



Alas, heaven was deaf to entreaty.

Not so hell. A month or so later, Marcos declared martial law.

But, no, there's a more scientific explanation for all this, and it's scarier than hell. Or haven't you wondered why the storms that have been visiting us lately—and other countries as well, including the developed ones, indeed including the United States—have become more frequent and more vicious? We've already had three super typhoons this year alone, and the last two have produced catastrophic effects. I've heard folk complain about Pagasa, saying it misjudged things again with its shrill advisories. Well, thank your lucky stars Reming proved less than Milenyo to Manila. Better to err on the side of caution. I still remember how it was the other Christmas when moans and groans emanated from the pit of Infanta in the season of joy and merrymaking. Infanta was buried in mud and stone when the treeless mountains crumbled from the battering of a superstorm. Or, indeed, when huge piles of logs broke free and tumbled down on the sleeping folk below.

Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" supplies the explanation: The earth's icecaps are melting, and every year water levels are rising. They're not just rising, they're getting warmer. And the warmer they get, the more plentiful and angrier the storms they brew. The United States hasn't just reaped "Katrina," it has reaped completely literally the whirlwind in the form of tornadoes. It set the record for the number of tornadoes in 2004, which was 1,117. Japan also set a record for typhoons that year. As did many parts of the world for various calamities, including floods to rival the

one in the Bible. For the first time ever, a hurricane hit the South Atlantic, a thing theretofore thought impossible by scientists. It was also at the end of that year that a monster storm hit Infanta, and an even bigger monster tsunami hit Aceh and neighboring parts.

The storms are getting more vicious because of that same warming of the oceans. Before they hit land, they hit the warm water surrounding it. That jacks up their wind velocity and increases their moisture content, scientific ways of saying the storms start blowing like crazy and the heavens weep uncontrollably upon the earth. The results are enough to make you religious. We may bring out all the religious icons we want in processions, but none of them will stop heaven's fury. Absolutely terrifyingly, we ain't seen nuthin' yet. Nature is bound to go more berserk in years to come. If ever any writing on the wall foretelling doom was plain to see, this is it.

What to do about this? I'm not knocking prayer, but God has been known to help those who help themselves. Those who don't help themselves He has been known to sigh while stepping on their fingers clutching the Ark, "Sayang, I gave you a brain pa." Gore himself proposes that the world pressure his country to commit to the Kyoto Protocol, which calls on all countries—the United States foremost, it being the No. 1 culprit—to curb carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Yet another reason to bitterly rue the fact that Bush won and Gore lost the 2000 US elections.

Gore has other proposals on how we may individually give CPR to a drowning planet. But I'll leave the reader to watch the docu itself. I think it's still showing in some commercial theaters, but I don't mind you getting the DVD version from your local neighborhood pirate—get it any which way you can and distribute it. One is tempted to say don't wait for tomorrow when you see the planet in spasms. But the spasms are happening right now. We are watching a planet at the start of its death throes.

Tomorrow is today. Tomorrow will be "The Day After Tomorrow."

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The JBC on the dock

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



THE JBC, OF COURSE, IS THE JUDICIAL AND Bar Council, recently rebuffed by five senior Supreme Court justices nominated for consideration as chief justice.

But first let us talk about the beginnings and the reason for the existence of the JBC. It will be recalled that, under the 1935 Constitution, all appointees to executive offices and to the judiciary had to get confirmation by the Commission on Appointments of Congress; the only officers not covered were "inferior officers" exempted by Congress. But all judges and justices had to go through the process.

Under the 1973 Constitution, there was no extrinsic check on the President's appointing power. Lucky him!

The JBC was designed by the 1987 Constitution for appointments to the judiciary. The institution was fathered by former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, who saw the JBC as a way of insulating appointments to the judiciary from politics. During the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, horror stories were told about individual experiences of commissioners before the former Commission on Appointments. These experiences were probably exceptions to the rule, but the stories were enough to convince a majority of the commissioners to vote for the creation of a JBC. But what is the anatomy of what was created?

The JBC consists of seven members with the Chief Justice acting as ex officio chair, and the secretary of justice and a member of Congress as ex-officio members, together with a representative of the Integrated Bar, a retired Supreme Court justice, a practicing lawyer and a representative of the private sector. The latter four are appointed by the President with confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

The primary responsibility of the JBC is to screen persons being considered for appointment to the judiciary and to give to the President a list of at least three nominees for every vacant position in the judiciary. The President can choose on-

ly from among those in the list. But there is nothing in the Constitution which prevents the President from rejecting those in a first list and from asking for a fresh list *et sic ad infinitum* until the expectations of the President are met.

There is a JBC created rule which requires prospective appointees to appear for interview. I am not sure when this rule started. But it was only this year that the JBC required prospective appointees to the position of chief justice to appear for public interview. Five justices being considered for nomination declined to appear. What next?

The first thing I would note is that the five justices did not apply for the position. Rather, the JBC on its own considered them as included in the list being considered for submission to the President. Should they then be compelled to appear? Or should their non-appearance be construed as a rejection of the position?

Secondly, the five are incumbent holders of very public positions. Their legal thoughts, whether in majority opinions or dissents, are required to be published. Their biases can also be perceived from their writings. I would assume that the members of the JBC can easily familiarize themselves with these. As the secretary of justice put it, what more can you legitimately get out of them in 30 minutes of controlled interviews? I believe in the dictum *entia non sunt multiplicanda sine necessitate*. Don't clutter the world with useless things. I don't think interviews will yield much, if at all.

Thirdly, the fact that applicants to lower positions or applicants from outside are required to

appear does not violate the equal protection clause because the incumbent justices are dissimilarly situated from others. Distinctions are allowed where there are real differences. I might even say that the fact that only five justices are automatically listed by the JBC discriminates against the other incumbent justices. Seniority in the judiciary is not a substantial distinction.

I am all for transparency. But it is not as if the professional qualifications of the five justices are shrouded in opacity. True, it may be that there are grounds for disqualification that are not public. It may be that substantial and relevant objections have been brought to the attention of the JBC. In such cases, the JBC should make these objections public and ask the nominees to make a public answer, if they care to answer. If they have an answer or if they do not care to answer, then the JBC should be in a position to weigh the importance or lack of importance of the objections.

To disqualify the five justices for the sole reason that they declined to appear in a hearing held to determine their suitability for a position for which they had not applied would, to my mind, smack of petulance.

True, there are rules. But these are JBC-made rules. Like the Rules of the House and the Rules of the Senate and the Rules of Court, they can be dispensed with by the authors if fairness and wisdom demand it. I believe that there are valid reasons for not applying the rule to incumbent justices.

This brings me to my view of the JBC vis-à-vis appointments to the Supreme Court. When this matter was deliberated upon by the 1986 Constitutional Commission, I voted in favor. On hindsight, I would now reconsider. For purposes of screening appointments to the Supreme Court, I find the JBC too narrow in composition and too vulnerable to manipulation. Briefly, for all the defects of a Commission on Appointments, I would like a return to the 1935 rule for purposes of appointments to the Supreme Court.

Who says I am against amending the Constitution?

An art it has become

KILLING BABIES, THAT IS.

The well-known US-based pro-abortion outfit Planned Parenthood recently commissioned the invention of a new device that makes it even easier for mothers to effect the killing of babies in their wombs. The manual vacuum aspirator, which Planned Parenthood boasts of, is an "improved" adaptation of an earlier version; it is capable of tearing and sucking a baby out of the womb. But here's the selling point: It is manually operated and is even portable. Meaning, it is now easier for mothers to kill their own babies. What wondrous progress we are indeed making in this world of modernity.

What makes it even more bizarre is the way the US Food and Drug Administration—which normally approves health aids and devices after the required number of years of study—approved the use of the death device: It waived this requisite.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecology of Great Britain has proposed to let seriously disabled newborns die. The proposal is currently on review by the Nuffield Bioethics Council, the British body in charge of probing ethics-related issues arising out of new developments in biology and medicine.

In advocating "neonaticide," the Royal College urged that the "physical harm as well as social, psychological and/or financial harm to related third parties" be taken into account. Under such circumstances, the Royal College went on to suggest, it is best to "put an end to the child's sufferings."

With the "pietistic" claim "in the interest of third parties," parents and doctors can now become executioners of a death sentence. Note that this comes at a time when many Western states, especially those in the European Union, are cam-

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

paing to put an end to the imposition of death penalty.

Perhaps the grave implication of the Royal College's hideous proposal is a shift in perspective that now considers infants as non-persons. Not a few anti-life (read: pro-death) advocates have claimed that newborns, having no capacity for self-awareness, are not persons. Worse, they are promoting the idea that the handicapped, those with physical abnormalities, are not worthy of human assistance and respect and that their lives are "second-rate." So, the end now justifies the means!

Human culture of whatever ethnicity has always taught us that human and societal responsibilities include the raising of children. But that is no longer so nowadays with our fixation on "options." To raise children has now become purely optional. A new phenomenon has arisen, which some authorities describe as a new form of societal ennui—our refusal to produce the next generation of world citizens.

With many countries now entering the so-called "demographic winter" (declining and aging populations) comes also our new fear of life, of paternity and of maternity. Many of us have been probably seized by that fear. For even media bombard us each day with that fear, using the old and discarded Malthusian reasoning that less population means better lives. No wonder we are

in a rush to snuff out infant lives more than we should address head-on the root causes of graft and corruption and social inequalities.

Many of our legislators have also become apologists, if not pro-death advocates themselves, by dazzling us with data that instill fear instead of courage. Edcel Lagman claims a bill on reproductive health he has filed is anti-abortion. Maybe so, but is he aware that the term "reproductive health" is a catch-all jargon that includes a whole gamut of choices like abortion? Maybe not. This is a global word. What is "reproductive" for the United Nations, from which the jargon comes, is also "reproductive" for us.

Is Lagman aware that once it is passed and enacted into law, it will open the floodgates to more abortion cases? Anti-life advocates are mum on the undeniable fact (proven by data) that in the United States, the incidence of abortion has not declined despite the liberal and widespread promotion of artificial contraception use.

No, what Lagman does not tell us is the fact that many of these artificial forms of contraception are actually abortifacients. They kill. Not only mechanically, but also chemically. And so it is OK to campaign against toxic wastes, poisonous aerial spraying and mining effluents, but we can forget about the poisoning of infants and babies which can now be done deliberately, albeit voluntarily.

The moment we lose our capacity for courage, we also lose our capacity to love humanity—in whatever form and in whatever circumstances—without conditions; we lose our capacity to accept the other as he or she truly is.

But no, "optional" is in. And the options include "generational suicide."

Comments to montalva@cdu-cdo.edu.ph

Frustrated idealists

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

crowds, or if the "people" are a mob perpetually on the brink of a riot.

We can only make sense of the world based on our own personal experiences and whatever it is we accept as authoritative opinions with regard to the things we have neither the time nor the means to find out on our own. For this reason, I believe it's important to distinguish the supporters of constitutional change who aren't (directly, at least) members of the political class from the politicians, who either borrow without understanding or adopt without concern for the nuances, ideas for political reform. The activist citizen or the concerned intellectual lacks what politicians have: a following that can be mobilized in elections, the system for change best understood and most widely accepted by the public at large.

If politicians consider everything negotiable (which is easy to condemn but reflects a basic characteristic of the human condition), the ordinary citizen from activist, intellectual, or civil society circles could end up suffering from a dangerous frustration. That frustration may manifest itself in the form of impatience, even contempt, and it arises after one has devoted himself to serious study and advocacy, only to discover that everyone else lacks the time, training, or inclination to debate things seriously and change things dramatically and swiftly. The result? He tries to reverse that frustration by supporting politicians who "can get things done," sooner rather than later, by whatever means necessary. In other words, exchanging idealism for the bluntest expression of the worship of power: The end justifies the means.

And so the frustrated combine with the ambi-

tious, the impatient with the ruthless, the desperate with the despotic, in support of armed revolution, peaceful people power, or the use of political muscle regardless of "legal technicalities." I doubt if anyone, at one time or another, hasn't been guilty of attempting any of these actions. We all get fed up; we all just want to get things done; we have all broken rules because we felt we needed to achieve something more important, if not for others, at least for ourselves.

Now I am someone who doesn't love rules, but I have broken enough rules in my lifetime to realize, the hard way, that they exist for a pretty good purpose: to keep individuals from wrecking their own lives and those of others. And that furthermore, life is more pleasant and smoother for everyone if we follow existing rules, while constantly finding ways to eliminate the rules that stop making sense, or result in making life more unpleasant than it ought to be. Our personal histories are reflected in our national tale, which is really a confrontation between two Golden Rules: should it be, those who have the gold make the rules, or the other golden rule we've been taught by our parents, teachers, in school and in the organizations we belong to? The problem is, the former helps in elections; the latter sounds good but is insanely difficult to practice.

In political terms, much as I've often criticized him, Fidel Ramos was right when he proposed that the country gamble on a unicameral parliament, provided the country witnessed what might have been a breathtaking surrender of power and ambition by those in office. Do it now, immediately, he said, even if it means affecting the terms of all incumbents. That he did so, in what was a startling act of political opportunism, fatally affected the willingness of those in power and the public to embrace an idealistic proposal. So it failed. And for the same reasons, those sincerely pushing for their own flavor of political changes shouldn't be surprised that public skepticism and hostility have greeted their subsequent efforts to force the adoption of a different system of government.

What NGOs mean to our country

A ROTARY CLUB TOGETHER WITH A "MILITANT ORGANIZATION"? The Knights of Columbus and the Couples for Christ together with a lesbian/gay organization? A gun club joining a group of peace advocates? Organizations of dentists, business chambers and alumni associations grouped together with labor unions, farmers' organizations and market vendors' associations?

All these groups are hard to imagine, but they do come together under the broad definition of non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society.

COMMENTARY

Sixto Donato C. Macasaet

Different people often use the terms "NGOs" and "civil society" in different ways. The same person may even use them differently at different times and contexts! Add to this the numerous forms and sizes of NGOs, and it is no wonder that many people get confused.

NGOs may be broadly defined as organizations that are private (or non-government), non-profit and voluntary (but may hire professional staff and workers).

This definition is similar to the broad definition of "civil society" as "the arena, outside of the family, the State and the market where people associate to advance common interests." NGOs and civil society defined in this way would include socio-civic organizations, religious groups, alumni associations, professional associations, business clubs, non-profit schools and hospitals, and others.

A document of the National Economic and Development Authority distinguishes the State, the "market" and "civil society" by explaining that the State is public action for public good, the market is private action for private good and civil society is private action for public good.

An important sub-set of the whole civil society is composed of the "development NGOs." These are NGOs committed to and working for social justice and development. They are registered and more institutionalized and often (but not always) operate with full-time staff in addition to volunteers.

Development NGOs broadly defined includes sectoral or community-based people's organizations (POs) and cooperatives.

What are examples of development NGOs and their work?

Rural development NGOs in Southern Mindanao work together to implement sustainable integrated area development, including participatory resource appraisal and participatory development planning, in certain municipalities.

A cooperative in Bicol provides savings and credit services to 2,600 members, and has also developed a health care package and a youth program. An NGO in Northern Luzon focuses on education assistance to poor youth and creative education.

A coalition of farmers and fisher folk organizations in Mindanao undertakes community enterprise development, including community-based resource profiling, community enterprise organizing, participation in local governance to influence the local economic development processes of the government, and advocacy on asset reform, fair trade, good governance and environmental protection.

It is difficult to estimate the number of NGOs there are today. But a 2002 study by Ledivina Carño of the University of the Philippines estimated that the total number of NGOs, POs, non-stock associations and cooperatives was between 249,000 and 497,000 as of 1997.

Around 63 percent of these are POs, 14 percent are NGOs, 8 percent are cooperatives and 15 percent are non-stock corporations. However, the data need to be updated and re-examined. For example, the study cites that the Securities and Exchange Commission data on non-stocks as of June 2002 put their number at 152,535. However, in September this year, a SEC official shared at a workshop the information that, after starting a cleanup of their registry, the SEC now counts only around 80,000 non-stock, non-profit organizations.

Whatever their number, it is clear that NGOs or civil society contribute to our nation's economic, socio-cultural and political development. This is recognized in our 1987 Constitution, which declares that "the State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation." (Article II, Section 23)

However, many people still need to know more about NGOs and their contribution to our society. But most NGOs do not have funds for promotion and cannot inform the public about the valuable work that they do. This is why the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), the Peace and Equity Foundation and other organizations have regularly, since 1998, observed Social Development Week. This year, Social Development Week was held last Nov. 27-30 and featured a Development Trade Fair, forums, product demonstrations and a seminar.

Together with the Social Development Week celebration, the Philippine-Japan NGO Partnership Symposium and Trade Fair also had its own set of activities. And this early December, the "Exchange Arena" will be launched, and its first matching of corporate employee volunteers and NGO volunteer opportunities will take place.

We hope that as a result of getting to know the NGOs better, the government, business, media, academe and other sectors will sustain and strengthen their support for the development work of NGOs. It is also our hope that the general public will also increase their involvement and "investment" (in kind or in cash or as volunteers) in NGO work.

As the theme of the Social Development Week put it, "Kasali Ka, Sumali Ka."

Sixto Donato Macasaet is the executive director of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), an organization of 10 national and regional NGO networks with more than 2,000 affiliated NGOs, POs and cooperatives nationwide. His e-mail address is scmacasaet@codengo.org

THEY SAID

Why

"I am confident that they will be convicted because our evidence is strong. If I was not telling the truth, why would I put myself through this situation? I stood firm not only for myself, for my family, but also for our country."

—Nicole on the upcoming ruling on her rape case against four US servicemen. (The verdict is expected to be issued today.)

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American arrogance has no place in RP

"ARE DIPLOMATS FREE TO GO AGAINST the traffic?" (PDI, 11/28/06) I think the reader has a valid point which Americans in the country should seriously ponder. There should be no place for American arrogance in our country. But we see it very often here.

That's why I never dreamed of going to America. The thought of applying for a visa is to me nauseating. I would rather

go to Japan and other European countries where people are very courteous, unlike Americans who behave like they rule the world.

I believe the Philippine government has to do something about this problem. I have heard of the horror stories from some friends applying for a visa. The "power-tripping" of American consuls stinks to the heavens and this

makes the angels puke!

When I was in Japan, a friend told me how the Japanese government compel all guests, even the diplomats, to adhere to the country's rules and regulations. I hope our government can do the same.

It's so shameful, embarrassing and humiliating. How can our government allow this to happen in our country?



Let's stop American arrogance—not tomorrow, but today!

—SIMON "MONSI" SERRANO,
chief consultant,
Metaopsis Consultancy,
3rd Floor, Unit 325 Saint John
Condominium,
139 Scout Rallos Extension,
Sacred Heart, Quezon City 1100

A victory not worth the joy of Filipinos

ALLOW ME TO DISAGREE WITH SOME points in the INQUIRER's editorial "Sweet victory" and Conrado de Quiros' column "Proud to be Filipino." (PDI, 11/21/06)

Instead of rejoicing over Manny Pacquiao's victory, we should think again and weep for our poor nation. Although Pacquiao's victory has shown the world how we Filipinos can excel in sports, the ensuing euphoria only highlighted how we can easily forget that we're being duped and thus, allowing ourselves to be duped some more.

Why should we celebrate a boxer's victory that is only being used to woo us into uniting behind the tyrannical and murderous regime of a dubiously "elected" Philippine President?

Instead of idolizing Pacquiao, we should all teach our children not to emulate his shortsightedness which is blatantly manifested in the way he supports Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's questionable presidency.

There are Filipinos who can serve as better models than Pacquiao. We have good students who win in international competitions. We have good teachers who prefer to stay here to help educate the hope of our motherland, despite the meager pay.

We have social activists who campaign against hunger, poverty, malnutrition, homelessness, landlessness and repression. Is Pacquiao's victory greater than their achievements?

Unless Pacquiao breaks his ties with the country's biggest cheat, liar and thief, we cannot celebrate his triumph, even though he is making the Philippines world-famous.

—DAVID MICHAEL M. SAN JUAN,
dmsanjuanMM3@yahoo.com

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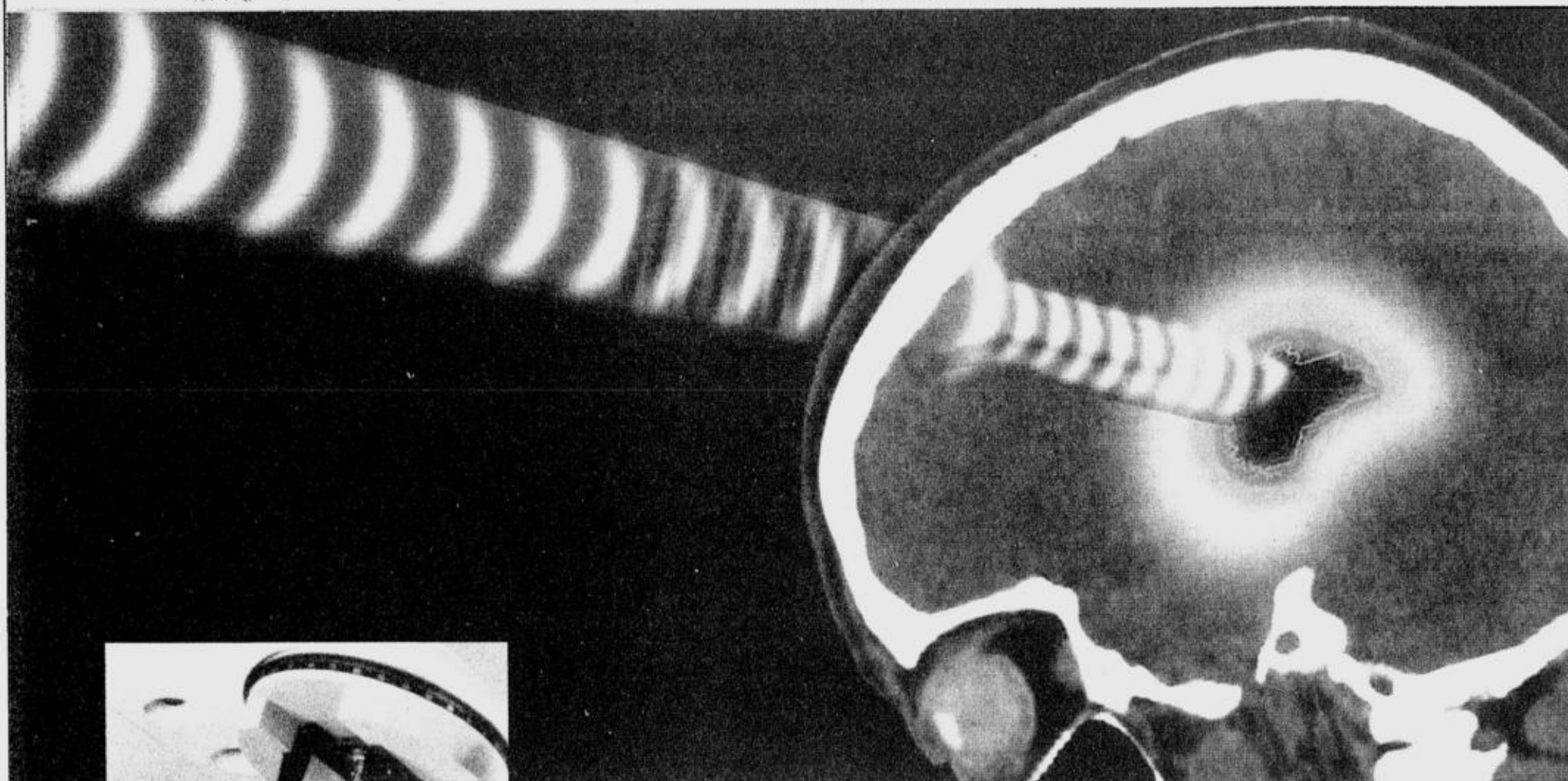
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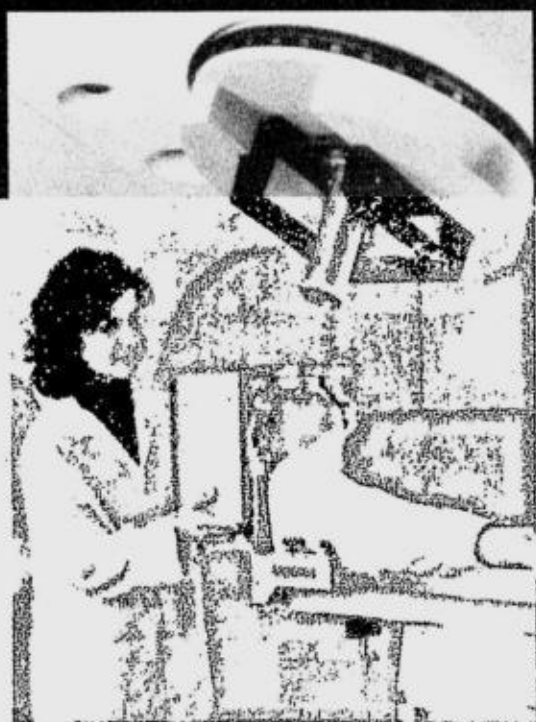
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Know your government

WE FILIPINOS should educate ourselves about our government. Most of us assume we know it, but we don't. So let's start with the fundamentals.

1. Ours is a democratic, republican government. This means that we are the government, but we elect the people who represent us in running the affairs of this nation. Unlike in a parliamentary government where people elect the members of the lawmaking body who in turn elect the prime minister, we elect our president by a direct vote.

2. The form of government does not guarantee good governance. Whether a government is parliamentary or presidential, there will be no good governance if those implementing the law are frail, weak and prone to sin. Thus it is a change of people, more than form, that guarantees a good, honest administration.

3. Be careful with people who engage in double-speak. They don't mean what they say. Notice how easily they use phrases like "rule of law" or "government of laws and not of men" and "sovereign people."

4. Because we are taxpayers, all government employees, from the President on down to the lowest barangay chair, are our servants and not our masters. Report, therefore, any form of arrogance or discourtesy by a public servant.

5. Be considerate; but, if necessary, assert your rights when you feel you're being ignored or taken for granted when dealing with public officials. Most of them feel the world owes them a living.

6. What we need in this country is a strong public opinion which is common in progressive Western countries. Public opinion should be used to force public officials to account for their public acts.

—REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,
retired minister,
United Church
of Christ,
San Nicolas,
Pangasinan 2477

Studes demand refund of illegal fees

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE STUDENT ALLIANCE TUITION Refund Now (TRN) has given the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) until Dec. 31 to order private schools to refund what the TRN has described as "illegally collected fees since June 2006."

Otherwise, the group said, it would have to resort to administrative and legal remedies.

Slow response

"CHED's action has been very slow, but we do not want it to pass over [any action] this year because we expect another round of tuition increase proposals in the first quarter of 2007," said Alvin Peters, secretary of the Manila-based TRN, in e-mailed statement to the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER tried to call Dr. Carlito Puno, CHED chair, for comment but he was reportedly out of the office.

Marco de los Reyes, National

Union of Students of the Philippines president and alliance member, said the refund demand was based on the TRN's findings that the CHED had violated the guidelines for tuition increases this year.

'Illegal' memorandum

In the House of Representatives, the committee on higher and technical education had declared CHED Memo 14 (CMO 14), or the Guidelines for Tuition and other Fee Increase Proposals, "illegal" June 9, the Bulatlat.com website reported.

The committee had found the memo exempted consultations on tuition hikes "below or within the national inflation rate," while RA 6728, or the Government Assistance to Teachers and Students in Private Education, states there should be "appropriate consultations at any rate of increase."

Peters said CMO 14 violated RA 6728 in these two instances.

On May 8, CHED issued a commission resolution en banc disallowing all tuition increases for school year 2006-07 that were higher than the national inflation rate of 7.6 percent.

The alliance, however, claimed 194 private schools increased their tuition "beyond the minimum 7.6 percent" this school year.

Increase rates

CHED reported on June 2 that Ilocos region schools had raised tuition the highest in the country by 20 percent, followed by the Cordillera Autonomous Region at 18.38 per-

cent and the Bicol region by 16.20 percent.

NCR highest tuition

The report added that the National Capital Region, which has 269 private colleges and universities, charged the highest average tuition per unit at P863.71, followed by the Calabarzon Region at P580.66 per unit.

Fifty-one schools—including University of Sto. Tomas, University of the East-Caloocan and Manila and De La Salle University-Araneta—raised their tuition beyond 7.6 percent, the CHED reported.

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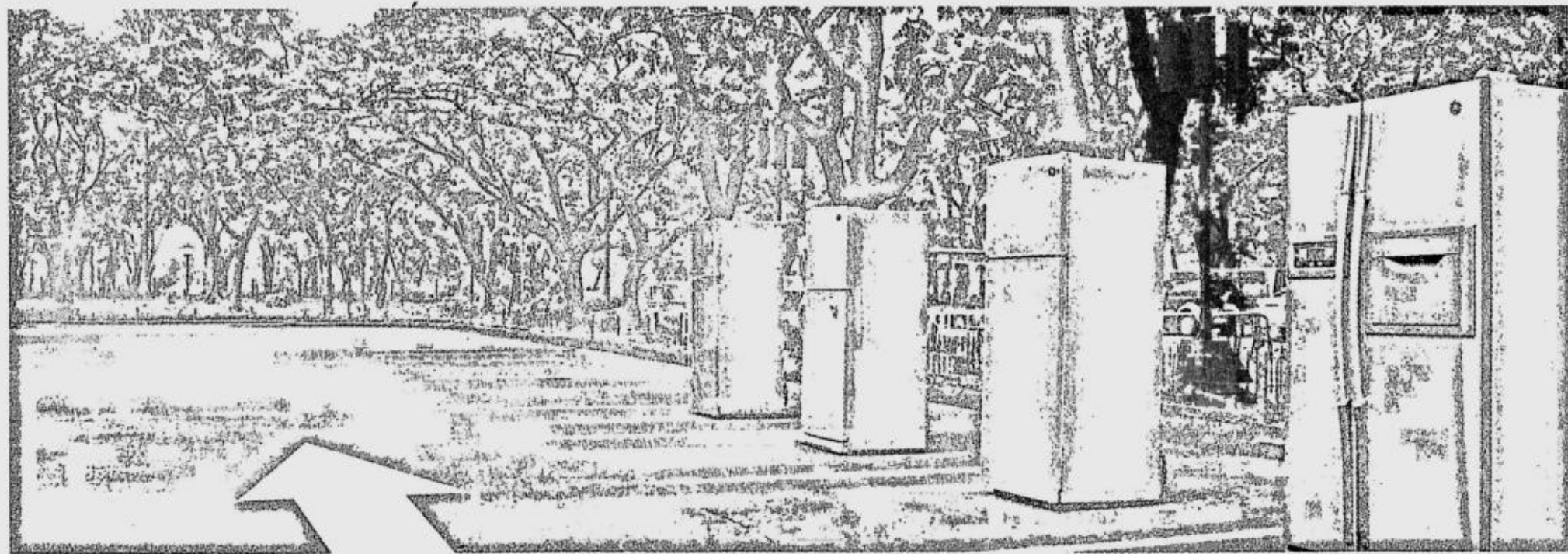
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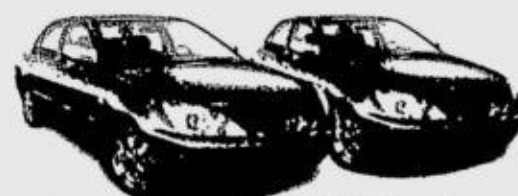
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Guimaras fishers to get paid for lost income

By Blanche S. Rivera

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—SUN-BURNT and wrinkled from years at sea, fisherman Filomino Galve, who has been making his living from the riches of the Guimaras waters for 34 years, will get P12,000 for being deprived of income the past three months. His wife Myrna, a shellfish gatherer, will get P3,580.

After losing their livelihood and perhaps the chance to benefit from the waters of Guimaras for a still undetermined time, fisherfolk here would get anywhere between P3,500 and P23,000 each as compensation from the international insurer of Petron Corp.

The London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) has come out with a list classifying some 13,000 fisherfolk claimants from this province and assured local governments that it would release the checks before the year ends.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga said the IOPC representatives, who have been in Iloilo for two weeks to conduct consultations with local governments and participate in the recently concluded Scientific Congress, already presented its "offer" to the townsfolk during a public forum.

Gonzaga said each claimant would get P8,000 to P10,000 on the average as compensation for lost income since Aug. 11 when a tanker carrying Petron's 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil sank in rough waters off Guimaras and damaged the province's marine ecosystems.

"This [list] is being offered. The IOPC came here (Nov. 28) to see if there are any objections, and so far there was none, so they will

come back soon," the mayor said.

Based on the IOPC list, shell gatherers, who were most affected as mollusks continued to be contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons, would get a measly P3,580. Fish workers would receive P8,222 and divers P8,150.

Those who use hook and line and long line with motorized boat would get P15,685 while those with nonmotorized boat would receive P13,850. Fishers using gill net and who also gather shell fish would get P8,453 if their boat is motorized and P6,405 if not.

Hook and line and boat operator would get P18,643 while boat operators with any miscellaneous fishing activity would get P18,156. Those with fish traps

would receive P12,141 if they use motorized boat and P9,399 if not.

Those using crab traps stand to gain P15,257. Fishers using long line would get P12,710 for motorized boat users and P9,055 for non-motorized. Fishers under the bracket fish/coral would get the highest compensation at P23,483 for motorized boat and P17,141 if not.

"I think this is fair enough," Gonzaga said when asked if he felt the IOPC offer was just.

"Petron has had cash-for-work program so they (claimants) also got something from that," he said.

Fisherman Rex Cayanan of barangay Tando, who has been fishing since he was 15, would get around P8,000, an amount which he said was "better than nothing."

"They (other fishers and local officials) said if the claim is small, we could get it immediately but if it's big, it might take a long time, and we're not even sure we would get it," he said, speaking in the local dialect.

Another fisherman Samuel Gandecila, of barangay Lucmanan, said the offer was "small" but it helped that several members of the family would be compensated. His wife, who sometimes goes out with him to fish, would get P8,000 on top of his P12,000 compensation.

Provincial officials said some 13,000 to 14,000 fishers, shell fish gatherers and vendors on the coastline, and 34 resort owners have applied for claims as of Nov. 23.

2nd in the Philippines: Ifugao execs pass reproductive health law

BAGUIO CITY—IFUGAOS ARE NOW guided by a law that protects their reproductive health rights.

The Ifugao Reproductive Health and Responsible Parenthood Ordinance of 2006 (Provincial Ordinance 2006-033) was highlighted as an important piece

of local legislation during the World's AIDS Day celebrations in Lagawe town on Dec. 1.

The ordinance is the second to be approved in the country after Aurora province.

Ifugao Gov. Glenn Prudenciano, who

authored and pushed the measure through the provincial board as vice governor in August, said he based his draft measure on the same principles offered by the pending national reproductive health bill.

Prudenciano assumed the gubernatorial post in November after the death of Gov. Benjamin Cappleman.

He said Ifugao residents discovered that there was nothing to fear from reproductive health policies that some critics have labeled as the foundations for an abortion law.

Like the draft reproductive health bill still awaiting plenary discussions in Congress, the Ifugao ordinance makes it the government's duty to make information, health care services and medicine available to Ifugao residents regardless of their cultural or religious affiliations.

The ordinance states that it is the Ifugao residents' right "to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of [giving birth to] their children, [as well as] to make other decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence."

The law grants residents full understanding of all birth control options available to them, Prudenciano said.

The law also obliges government teachers to provide classrooms and out-of-school youths all information necessary to explain to them what reproductive health and sexuality are all about.

Prudenciano said the local government has taken into account the impact of uncontrolled population growth on their economy.

He said Ifugao, until recently, was considered the fourth poorest province in the Philippines.

"Government decided we must graduate [from that rank] so it pumped investments into the province. But I realized that it was not enough because we have a large population who are leaving because they no longer have lands to till," Prudenciano told the INQUIRER.

Providing Ifugao residents proper information about population management and insights into their sexuality is "foresight," he said, for the local government to sustain economic growth.

Cultural dimension

But there is also a cultural dimension that makes the law necessary, he said.

Ifugao tradition places a high value on family, so some men would replace wives who could not bear them children, he said.

Prudenciano said the law empowers women to deal with this male-centered bias, which still surfaces in some communities of Ifugao "despite the fact that the general population is now younger and educated."

"Highland Thoughts," a compilation of essays, short stories and poems written by Ifugao youths, also showed how tradition could help Ifugaos plan their families.

An article written by Manuel Dulawan enumerates age-old Ifugao values that, he said, are still relevant to present-day family planning principles.

Dulawan said Ifugao's complicated courtship period, the ritualistic obligations once a betrothal is arranged and a "trial period" among couples could delay marriage.

He also cited tribal inheritance customs that say "only the first [two] children of the couple are entitled to inherit their parents' property." Vincent Cabresa, *Inquirer* Northern Luzon

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'Polvoron' downs 31 pupils

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—THIRTY-ONE SCHOOL-children in Bien Unido town, 123 kilometers from here, were rushed to the hospital on Thursday morning when they complained of stomachache after eating *polvoron*, a delicacy made of flour, sugar and margarine.

The victims were all pupils at the Nueva Es-trella Elementary School. They reportedly bought the *polvoron* from Domingo Mabatu-an, 22, a vendor residing in the same town.

Just a few moments after eating the delicacy, some of the children started complaining of stomachache while others began vomiting.

The teachers immediately brought the pupils to the Garcia Memorial Provincial Hospital in neighboring Talibon town.

Dr. Harold Gallego, hospital chief, said only one of the children was admitted but

was released the next day. The rest were allowed to go home because the poisoning was not serious.

In a text message, Gallego said the children had complained of abdominal pain but only three or four actually vomited.

He said a team from the Provincial Health Office took samples of the *polvoron* for analysis.

Police investigators were still awaiting the results of the tests conducted by the PNP crime laboratory in Cebu where the samples were brought.

According to initial reports, the children disclosed that the *polvoron* they had eaten smelled of soap.

Police have detained the vendor at the municipal jail pending results of the probe.

On March 9, 2005, 27 schoolchildren died after eating cassava laced with pesticide in San Jose, Mabini town.



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Across the NATION

Governor sees classroom shortage in Camarines Sur after supertyphoon

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—THE provincial governor said Supertyphoon "Reming" that hit the province on Thursday afternoon wrought more damage on buildings than on roads and bridges.

At least 55 percent of school buildings in the province have been damaged, according to Gov.

Luis Raymund (LRay) Villafuerte after an aerial survey of the province on Saturday.

With the destruction of the school buildings, there will be a shortage of classrooms once classes resume today, he said.

He said he also foresaw effects on the livelihood of coconut

farmers with a wide swath of coconut groves damaged.

He said the provincial board had already declared a state of calamity in the province. At the same time, relief and rehabilitation initiatives were being undertaken by the provincial government.

Four teams have been dis-

patched to gather information on areas still isolated as of Saturday, he added.

He said the provincial government would try to respond to the needs of families who have lost their homes by providing them with temporary shelter. **Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon**



RESIDENTS try to salvage some of their belongings from their destroyed home following mudslides near the slopes of Mayon volcano in Albay.

EDWIN BACASMAS

S. Leyte sends search, rescue team to Albay

By Jani Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

MAASIN CITY—SOUTHERN Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias on Saturday sent two teams to help in the rescue and retrieval operation in mudslide-stricken municipalities of Albay.

The teams, composed of five members each, belong to the Southern Leyte Emergency Response Team (Solert).

During their sendoff, Lerias said the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council had decided to send them in appreciation of the help extended to Southern Leyte when the province itself was struck by

killer mudslides early this year.

"It feels good when you are able to help," Lerias said.

On Feb. 17, a portion of rain-soaked Mt. Kan-abag disintegrated into a rushing wall of mud, wiping out the entire Guinsaugon village in St. Bernard town from the face of the earth.

Search-and-rescue teams from all over the country and several nations came to Guinsaugon to help in efforts to rescue more than 1,000 people buried in mud.

"We know how they (Albay province) feel because we have experienced it more than anybody else. It's our turn to help them," Lerias said.

Local gov'ts urged to check spread of coconut pests

By Romy Amarado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE Philippine Coconut Authority in Central Visayas (PCA 7) has requested local governments to prevent the spread of coconut pests and diseases in the region.

The pests are now affecting coconut farms in some parts of Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

The Regional Development Council, in a meeting here on Tuesday, stressed the need for local governments in Central Visayas to implement measures to ensure a pest-free coconut industry.

In a resolution, the council cited a Nov. 16 PCA report that identified the coconut disease and pest ravishing plantations in other parts of the country as *Cadang-cadang* and *Brontispa longissima*.

Cadang-cadang is caused by a viroid that could wipe out hectares of coconut trees while the *Brontispa longissima* is a new pest that has invaded the country, particularly Luzon, the PCA report said.

The RDC brief said that losses to the world coconut industry from 1999 to 2002 due to *Brontispa longissima* had reached \$17.8 million, while the *Cadang-cadang* triggered the ban on the export of Philippine coconut products, particularly

fresh buko, to Taiwan.

"The Bicol provinces and parts of Eastern Visayas have been affected by this disease. Central Visayas is endangered because of its proximity and transport accessibility to these affected regions," the brief added. It did not indicate the amount of damage so far to the industry.

The pests look like beetles, but smaller than the indigenous species, according to Agriculture Regional Director Eduardo Lecciones.

Lecciones said the pests were believed to have come from Malaysia and entered the Philippines through infected ornamental plants.

"That is why we are now very strict with the transport of ornamentals to Visayas, especially those belonging to the palm family because they are alternate hosts of these pests," he said.

He said the coconut trees found along Roxas Boulevard in Manila were already infected.

The RDC resolution warned that "efforts to increase the supply of the region's coconut sector will be severely set back if these pests and diseases gained entry into the region."

"... LGUs in the region have an important role in preventing the entry of these pests and diseases through measures imposed by local ordinances," the council said.

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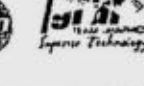
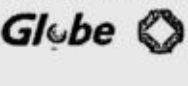
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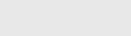
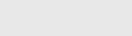
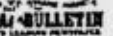
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Across the NATION

2 held for Cotabato judge slay

COTABATO CITY—Police arrested two suspects in the killing of Regional Trial Court Judge Sahara Silongan here on Saturday.

City police chief Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua identified the suspects as Samsudin Abas, 22, of Barangay Bialong, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao; and Hasim Maon Ando, 36, of Sultan Kudarat, Shariff Kabun-suan.

Abas, who claimed to be a farmer, and Ando, a jeepney driver, denied involvement in the crime during police interrogation at Precinct 2.

The two were arrested minutes after Silongan and his wife Lala were fired upon by two motorcycling-riding men along Sin-suat Avenue.

The victims were aboard an Isuzu van on their way home from a downtown grocery when they were attacked.

Abas said that when policemen pursued him, he ran for fear of being summarily executed.

"I am innocent," he said

"I was driving my brother Danny's motorbike when police cornered me," he said. **Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao**

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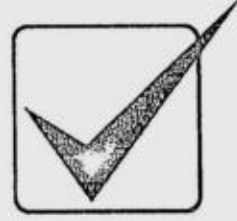
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Promo Period - Dec. 1-23, 2006 Per DTI NCR Permit No: 4926 Series of 2006

Republic of the Philippines
11th Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 10, Davao City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR CORPORATE REHABILITATION
AND FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE
REHABILITATION PLAN OF ALL
ASIABANK CORPORATION-YOUR
COMMUNITY THRIFT BANK
(DAVAO), INC.,

SP. PROC. NO. 8930-06

ALL ASIABANK DEPOSITORS
ASSOCIATION, INC.,

Petitioner.
-X-

STAY ORDER

Petitioner All Asiabank Depositor's Association, Inc. (AABDAI, for brevity) filed on November 10, 2006, herein petition alleging that it is a non-stock, non-profit association of All Asiabank Corporation (AABC, for brevity) depositors with office address at Sashmir Gasul Marketing, Monteverde St., Davao City, that the purpose of filing instant petition is for corporate rehabilitation as creditors holding at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total liabilities of the debtor corporation AABC. On October 26, 1999, All AsiaCapital and Trust Corporation (AACTC, for brevity) closed the purchase of a 34-year old Davao-based Banco Davao and launched it under a new name, All Asia Bank Corporation - Your Community Thrift Bank. In an effort to improve the bank's financial condition, AACTC (now Advent Capital and Finance Corporation), the majority owner of AABC managed to spring back to profitability in 2000 by raising the equity base to PhP 353 Million and rebuilding its earning assets based on a rehabilitation plan approved by the Monetary Board. However, AABC's financial recovery was short-lived when it encountered liquidity pressures through above-normal withdrawals propelled by adverse publicity against the bank's mother company, AACTC. To cater to the abnormal deposit withdrawals of PhP 280 Million, it sold the bulk of its high earning assets in 2000 and accessed the BSP Special Liquidity Facility rendering it groping for capital funds; that in 2001, in-house financial statement showed a net loss of PhP 80.7 Million slicing Stockholder's Equity to PhP 69.3 at yearend; that when the BSP imputed the booking of required valuation reserves in the amount of PhP 315 Million, it was in an impaired capital position; that its receivable from the All AsiaCapital group accounted for a significant portion of the required valuation reserves, which AACTC failed to remit, and that for failure of to find a new investor or infuse the required capital, AACTC surrendered its license that prompted BSP to close the banking business of AABC. Upon closure, The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC, for brevity), took over the bank as receiver and initiated activities to undertake pay-outs of insured deposits, that barely 2 1/2 months, PDIC conducted a bidding to sell the bank but the same failed; that the Rehabilitation Plan submitted by AABDAI was not approved by the PDIC hence in 2002, PDIC recommended its liquidation; that the latest liquidation report available from the PDIC to date is yearend 2004; and that this failure to update financial statement annually, the latter acted as if it does not have accountability to anyone. Therefore, the depositors of AABC who organized themselves under AABDAI, have no remedy left to protect their hard earned deposits other than filing Instant Rehabilitation Plan.

Finding the petition together with its annexes sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby:

1. Appoints Ramon M. de Vera of 3 Sta. Elvira, Capitolgo, Pasig City, as Rehabilitation Receiver with a bond in the amount of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00);
2. Stays the enforcement of all claims especially by the PDIC, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the debtor bank, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
3. Prohibits the Central Bank, through its Monetary Board, the PDIC from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of debtor bank's properties except in the ordinary course of business;
4. Prohibits All Asiabank Corp., as well as the PDIC from making any payment of the bank's liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
5. Directs the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the Stay Order;
6. Fixes the initial hearing of the petition on January 5, 2007, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning;
7. Directs petitioner to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks starting not later than seven (7) days from the issuance of this Order.
8. Directs all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve with the court and on the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings;
9. Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes to enable them to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing on January 5, 2007, otherwise they will be barred from participating in the proceedings of this case.

The petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Order and the Petition (with annexes) to Ramon M. de Vera, the Rehabilitation Receiver, who is requested to manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment and if he accepts said appointment, to take his oath before the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court and post the corresponding bond as aforementioned in favor of the petitioner to guarantee the faithful performance of his functions as receiver, on or before the date of initial hearing, January 5, 2007.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN IN CHAMBERS this 21st day of November 2006, at Davao City, Philippines

(Sgd.) JAIME V. QUITAIN
JUDGE

(PDI - December 4 & 11, 2006)

Duterte changes mind again on aerial sprays

DAVAO CITY—MAYOR RODRIGO Duterte made another turnaround on his stand on the highly controversial issue of aerial spraying.

Duterte said the fact-finding team's new recommendation against the agricultural practice was "severely restrictive that is al-

ready bordering [on] banning."

In the yearend meeting of the Joint Regional Peace and Order Council on Thursday, he had said he would not compromise the welfare of the people.

At least 79 people were hospitalized on Wednesday after inhal-

ing chemical fumes from a banana plantation in Braulio Dujali town, Davao del Norte.

Duterte also hit back at Councilor Nenita Orcullo for accusing him of succumbing to pressure from banana plantation firms.

He said he had earlier made

statements leaning toward the need to provide hard facts because the companies were part of the city's lifeblood.

"Simple justice tells me that if a legislation would be to the detriment of the banana industry, then I need to provide proof," he said.

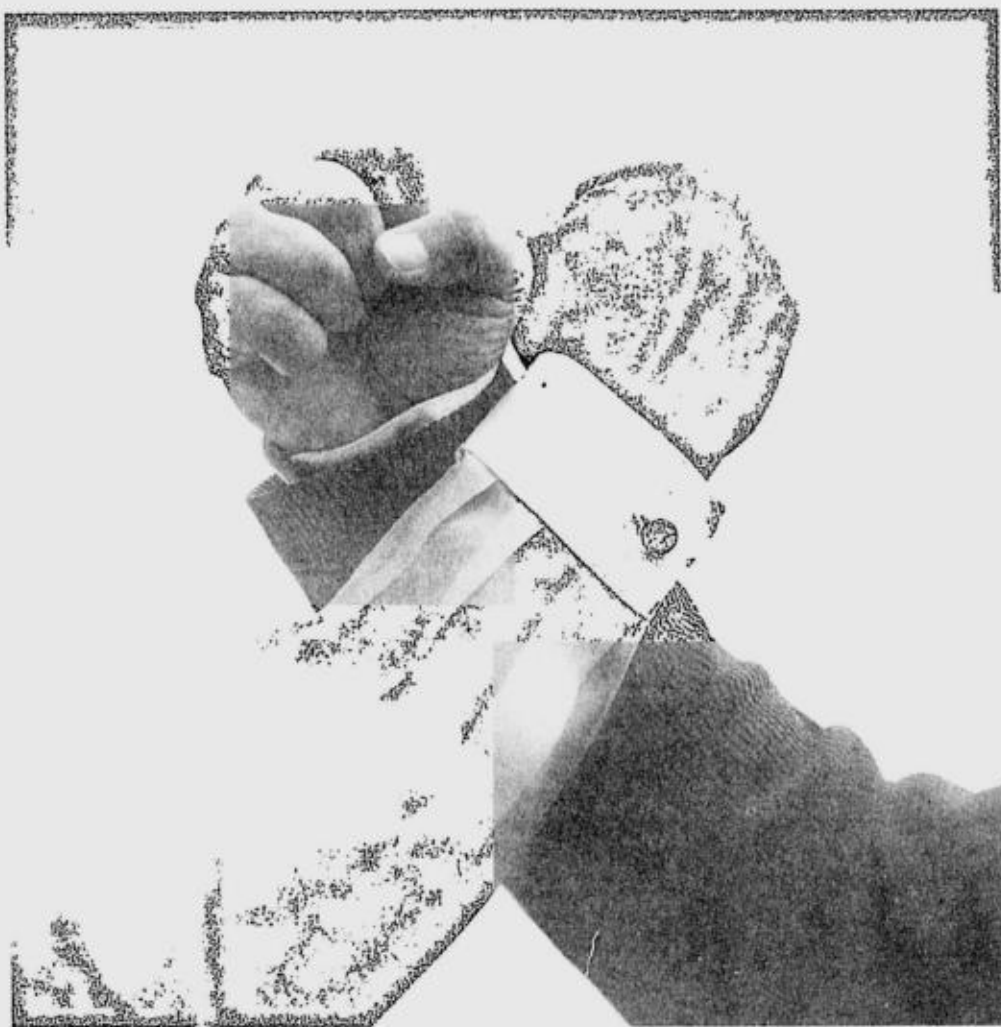
Duterte stressed that the decision whether to ban aerial spraying or not lay with the city council.

He said that if the council could not decide before yearend, he would stop the agricultural practice.

He lambasted leaders of envi-

ronmental groups Mamamayan Tutol sa Aerial Spraying and the Interface Development Interventions during a dialogue with them.

He said the groups were "sounding alarm bells" although a decision on the issue had yet to come out. *Rizalene Acac, Inquirer Mindanao*



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Malayang Babae Para Sa Cha-Cha At Reporma

City lacks facilities for HIV testing

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Health Office (CHO) has admitted that it lacked the capability to test the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Because of this, it warned against the possible entry of HIV, which causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), during a recent forum conducted by the Philippine Information Agency in observance of World AIDS Day.

Dr. Ralph Borromeo, CHO medical officer, said the existence of commercial sex workers in the city heightened the risk of contracting AIDS in the area.

Concern

While there have not been any reported HIV/AIDS cases in the province, Borromeo expressed concern over the CHO's lack of proper facilities to check for HIV and hepatitis.

These facilities are available in private hospitals but commercial sex workers (CSWs) could hardly afford regular check-ups, he said.

In the forum, a confessed commercial sex worker, Myrna Padilla Solibas, confirmed that it had not been easy convincing others in the flesh trade to subject themselves to regular exams or to insist that their partners use condoms.

Cooperation

Solibas, 36, is the president of Magdalena, an organization of CSWs organized by the Marina Clinic of the Silliman University extension program.

She said she was frustrated by the lack of cooperation of other sex workers in the campaign for safe sex.

The reasons they have given for not wanting to get an examination include the cost and the need to sleep during the day.

"I find it so frustrating that sometimes, I am tempted to ask the police to raid them," she said.

Solibas placed the number of CSWs in the city and nearby Sibulan town at 100.

"The mayor will always deny our existence. But I want to let the mayor know that there are prostitutes in Dumaguete," she said.

Borromeo admitted that the CHO needed to focus on HIV/AIDS, but it would need a big budget.

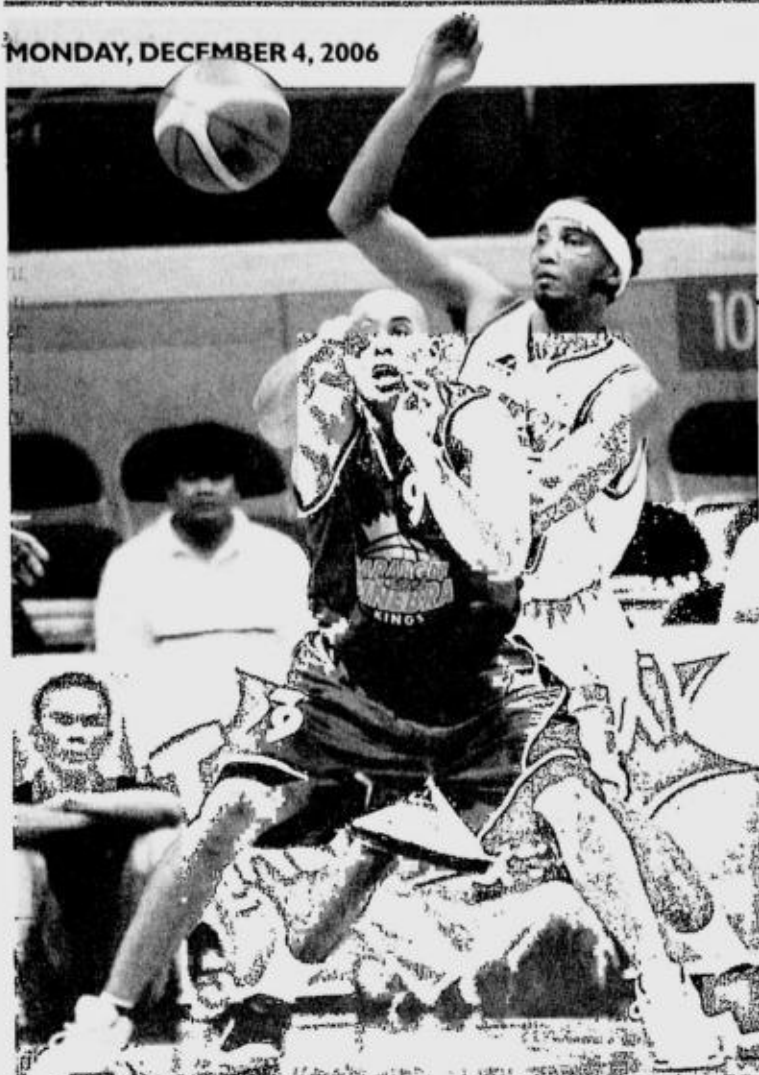
He said one way of keeping sexually transmitted diseases under check was to ensure that the CSWs were subjected to tests at least every six months.

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RUDY Hatfield of Ginebra passes off in the face of a tight defense by Air21's Niño Canaleta. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Gin Kings take No. 1 position

By Musong R. Castillo

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs. Welcoat

MARK CAGUIOA SHOT 35 points and Jay-Jay Helterbrand added 25 on top of 11 assists as Barangay Ginebra scored a come-from-behind 116-105 victory over Air21 last night that gave the Gin Kings temporary possession of the lead in the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup.

Rudy Hatfield was also good for a double-double with 13 points and the same number of boards, and Rafi Reavis scattered 10 points while collaring 17 rebounds as the Kings won out in a shoot-out at the Araneta Coliseum to improve to 10-4.

Air21, which started out hot and led by as many as 16 points in the first half, dropped to 6-8 and all but bowed out of contention for an automatic seat in the semifinals.

Sta. Lucia later dropped out of the lead after taking a 109-96 beating at the hands of Talk 'N Text.

Asi Taulava highlighted a 31-point effort by shooting 12 in the third period as the Phone Pals improved to 8-7.

The Realtors, whose high-profile roster of big men struggled all night, slipped to 9-5, tied for second place with Red Bull and Barangay Ginebra.

Gary David came off the bench and led the Express with 28 points, while Niño Canaleta, their high-flying forward who is recovering from

a leg injury, was practically a non-factor in the second half after shooting 13 points in the first two periods that jump-started the Air21 offense.

The final score did not really reflect how hard Ginebra's fourth straight victory came, as the Kings trailed, 56-72, early in the third period.

In fact, Ginebra never led until the final eight minutes and the Kings actually sat on pins and needles entering the stretch after Raniel de Ocampo had a jumper that shoved the Express within 100-99 with 3:15 to go.

"The games are just getting tougher and tougher," coach Jong Uichico said. "They (Express) were in their comfort zone in the first half and we were only able to take it away from them in the third period."

The scores:

First Game
BRGY GINEBRA 116—Caguioa 35, Helterbrand 25, Monk 15, Hatfield 13, Reavies 10, Salvacion 8, Macapagal 6, Tubid 2, Abarrientos 2, Holper 0, Mamani 0.

AIR21 105—David 28, Arboleda 21, Canaleta 16, De Ocampo, Y. 10, Santos 9, Telan 8, De Ocampo, R. 7, Dimanahan 3, Avenido 3, Solto 0, Bernardo 0.

Quarters: 26-30; 48-54; 81-81; 116-105.
Second Game
TALK 'N TEXT 109—Taulava 31, Washington 24, Carey 14, Cardona 12, Ritualo 12, Alapag 7, Allado 7, Pablo 2, Fran 0, Belano 0.

STA. LUCIA 96—Mendoza 16, Isip 14, Ormolen 11, Cabagnot 10, Espino 10, Williams 7, Bughao 7, Catli 6, Duremdes 5, Calimag 4, Aquino 4, Gonzales 2.

Quarters: 30-14; 55-38; 84-64; 109-96.

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3 out of 10 working children are out of school

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some 2.4 million child workers are exposed to physical, biological, and chemical hazards

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*Photo courtesy of International Labour Organization



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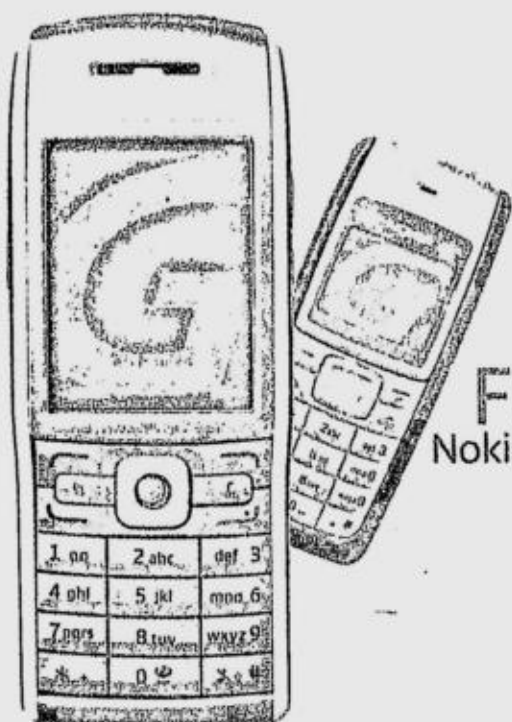
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Still no classes at Makati high school

City official says she's still waiting for go-signal from cleanup team

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS EXPERTS HAVE YET TO RESOLVE whether it would be safe to reopen the school, classes will remain suspended at San Isidro National High School in Makati City at least until tomorrow, the city schools division chief said yesterday.

Makati school division superintendent Elena Ruiz said that classes would be canceled until Tuesday at the public high school which has been closed since Nov. 26 after chemicals spilled inside its laboratory.

"The school would remain closed on Monday and Tuesday and we might resume classes on Wednesday. That was based on the recommendation of the cleanup team. We will know for sure tomorrow whether we could reopen on Wednesday," Ruiz told the INQUIRER.

Off limits

But the fourth floor of the school building, where the laboratory is located, will remain off-limits. Classes will be held only in the lower floors.

Different chemicals were spilled inside the laboratory the other Sunday after a wall-mounted cabinet where they were kept suddenly collapsed. Police are still trying to determine what caused the incident.

Emergency workers finished

cleaning up the contaminated school building on Friday as they completed the collection and removal of chemicals and other debris inside the lab.

Decontamination, however, is still ongoing as experts are expected to conduct today another test to measure toxicity levels inside and around the laboratory. The results of the first chemical level monitoring conducted by experts from the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources last week have yet to be released.

Dr. Irma Macalinao, a toxicology expert from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, however, said on Friday that chemical levels inside the lab had gone down as the source of contamination—the spilled chemicals—had been removed.

Should the school reopen this week, Ruiz said they might hold makeup classes for at least five Saturdays so that students could catch up on their lessons.

Nine persons, including five teachers and two school guards, were hospitalized after being exposed to the spilled chemicals.

Workers from the Makati and Pasay Rescue teams and the Bureau of Fire Protection's Special Rescue Unit worked together to complete the tedious cleanup that took almost six days.



STILL KING OF THE ROAD

An INQUIRER reader, Teodoro G. Santiago of Sta. Ana, Manila, has complained about heavy traffic on Lambingan Bridge which he blamed on undisciplined public utility drivers. His text message to Metro Citizen's Call went: "Jeepneys plying the Sta. Ana-Paco-Taft route pick up passengers at the foot of Lambingan Bridge causing abnormal heavy traffic. They do it in the middle of the road."

ROMY HOMILLADA

In building a bright future for the Cebuano youth, the San Lorenzo Ruiz School gets a lot of help from BPI Family Savings Bank.

United by one noble goal of building a new learning institution for their own children, a group of parents in Lapu-Lapu City established a small school incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit corporation in 1994. It was named San Lorenzo Ruiz School.

"Our school opened its classrooms to about 700 enthusiastic school children in June, 1994. Just four years after its establishment, San Lorenzo Ruiz School was given government recognition as a duly accredited educational institution. In the school year of 2000-2001, we began to offer a high school curriculum", Atty. Eliseo Daniot, the school's president, recalled.

Atty. Daniot and Mr. Edwin Esperanza, the school's vice president, are two of the parents who founded this learning institution. Along with other parents, they share their precious time in managing the school's operations. "We've seen how the school population has grown since its foundation twelve years ago. As such, new buildings and facilities were needed to accommodate more schoolchildren. That's why we sought the help of BPI Family Savings Bank", said Atty. Daniot.

Because of the loan from BPI Family Savings Bank, the school was able to construct new buildings in the campus. The founders are grateful to the bank because it has put its trust in the capacity and capability of the San Lorenzo Ruiz School.

The San Lorenzo Ruiz School is now gearing up to establish a college with initial courses in Bachelor of Arts. Vocational courses relevant to the industries in the Mactan Economic Zone are also being considered. "To realize those plans, we are confident that BPI Family Savings Bank will give a helping hand once again", Atty. Daniot said with a big smile.



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A life well lived behind the wheel

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon
Contributor

HE ONLY FINISHED SIXTH GRADE BUT HIS dedication to his chosen profession—coupled with perseverance, determination and having the right woman by his side—allowed him to provide for his seven children and put all of them through school.

Of course, life was much simpler in the old days, says Charles Calima, 71, who worked as a jeepney driver for over 50 years in La Union before retiring and moving to the big city.

"Iba naman ang buhay noon, basta masipag ka maghanapbuhay, makakaroas kayo ng pamiliya mo (Life was different then, as long as you worked hard, your family would survive)," Mang Charlie told the INQUIRER.

"Isang sakong bigas noon, P18 lang (One sack of rice then was only P18)," he recalled.

A son of a farmer and a housewife in Bolinao, Pangasinan, Mang Charlie only finished elementary because he chose to work at an early age to help his parents send his 12 siblings to school.

When he was barely 15, he went to Manila to work as a houseboy. He earned P10 a month which he regularly sent to his mother for his siblings' school allowances. After a year, he went to stay with his uncle in La Union where he enrolled in a vocational course in auto mechanic.

It was at this time that he met Juanita Turalba whom he married in 1955 when he was 20 years old. Like him, Nita had only completed sixth grade.

Still, the couple had big plans for their children.

"Pangarap ko noon, sana yung isang anak ko, maging magaling na opisyal ng pulis, yung isa naman magaling na teacher. Sana lahat sila makatapos ng pag-aaral at magkaroon ng maayos na buhay (I used to wish back then that one of my children would become a good police officer, another an excellent teacher, that all of them would be able to finish their studies and have a peaceful life)," Mang Charlie said.

The couple would eventually have seven kids: Marilou, Charles Jr., Edwin, Edward, Juanito, Manuel and Curie.

Family was inspiration

"Para sa pamilya ko, kumayod ako nang kumayod (For my family, I worked really hard)," Mang Charlie said.

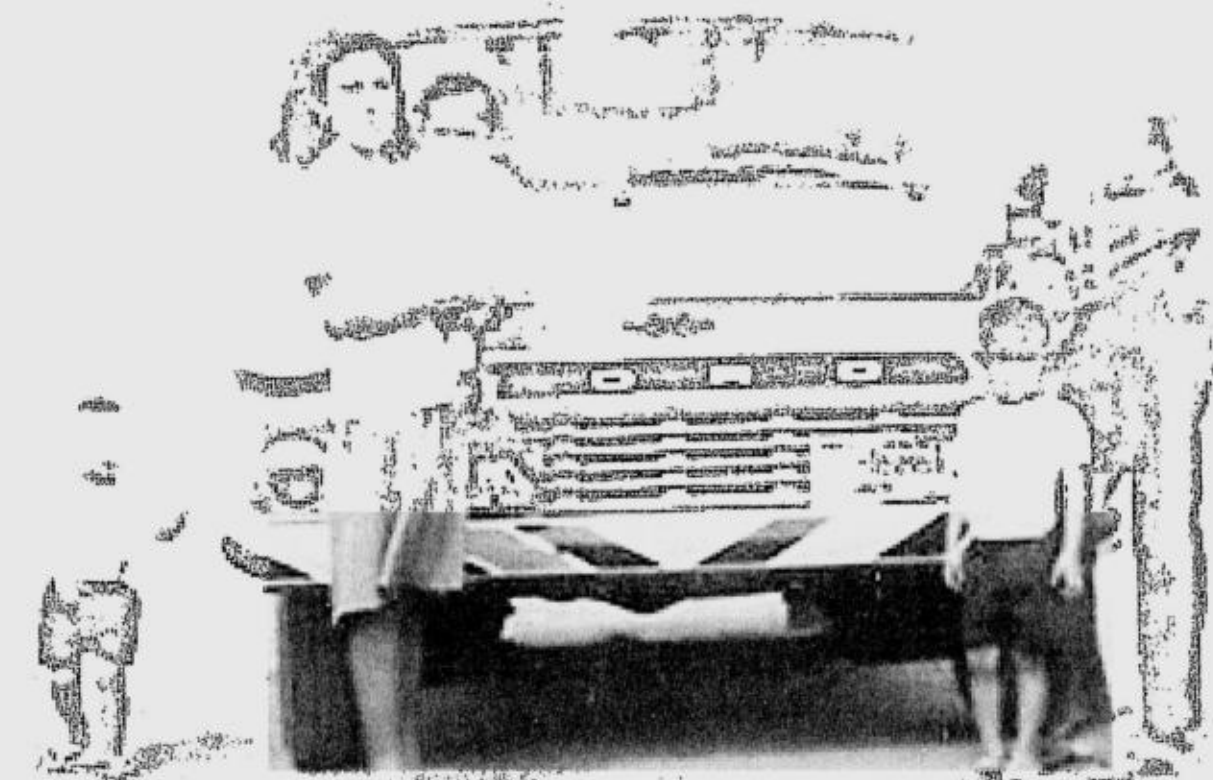
After working as a driver at the school where he had studied, he moved to the Philippine Lumber Co. in San Fernando, La Union where he drove a truck. When he got married, he started driving a passenger jeep.

During the late 50s until the 60s, Mang Charlie plied the San Fernando, La Union to Candon, Ilocos Sur route—a bumpy three-hour drive. He said the fare was P1 then. With diesel at 12 centavos per liter, he earned enough to put food on the table and send his kids to school.

As he got older, his routes became shorter—from San Fernando to Dagupan City, Pangasinan—and later on, from San Fernando to Bacnotan, just a 15-kilometer ride.

Mang Charlie eventually retired in 2002, the year Nita died of cancer at the age of 64.

"Matalino siya at masayahing babae (She



MANG Charlie with his wife, Nita and their sons—Edwin, Edward and Juanito—during a family outing to Lingayen Gulf in the 1970s. Mang Charlie was fond of taking his family on trips during weekends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

was an intelligent and happy woman)," he said of his life partner.

He added that it was Nita who inspired him to work harder for their family.

"Marunong siyang mag-budget, mag-alaga ng mga anak at magdisiplina (She knew how to budget our money, take care of the kids, and discipline them as well)," he added.

Nita also often joined him during his trips, acting as his "kondoktora" or assistant.

No complaints

Theirs was a simple life but his children, like his wife, never complained. They did not mind that all their clothes and school things were hand-me-downs. They also did not care if they were not allowed to go out with friends.

"Silang magkakapatid ang lagang magkakasama (The siblings were always together)," Mang Charlie said.

Since he wanted a better future for all of his children, he encouraged them to finish school. To make sure that his sons would not end up like him, he only allowed them to learn how to drive after they had already graduated from college.

"Kadalasan kasi pag driver ang tatay, tinuturuan din ang anak na lalaki mag-drive. Ang mangyayari, hindi na magpupursige sa pag-aaral yung anak, magda-drive na rin para kumita agad (Usually, when the father is a driver, he would teach his son to drive as well. And when the son can already drive, he would no longer pursue his studies and would just drive to earn money right away)," he explained.

Mang Charlie added, "Wala namang



MANG Charlie started driving when he was only 17. Now 71, he still gets behind the wheel every now and then.

masama sa pagiging driver. Kaya lang, kaya ko sila pinag-aral para mas maging maganda ang kinabukasan nila (There's nothing wrong with being a driver. But I sent them to school to have a better future)," Mang Charlie said.

Another thing he taught them was to always respect their elders and other people as well.

Charles Calima and wife Nita successfully raised their seven children, relying solely on his earnings as a jeepney driver

A LIFE/A27



Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II), invites Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BIDS
9941	Security Services to perform security services for the Water Treatment Division	P 5,348,000.00	P 2,500.00	November 30 to December 6, 2006	December 1, 2006	December 20, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 – 5:00pm)

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St. Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) LEONARDO REY D. VASQUEZ
BAC II – Chairman

(PDI-Dec. 4, 2006)



TV GUIDE
Monday, December 4, 2006

MAS PINASIGLA, MAS KAPANA-PANABIK!

WALANG PANGALAN 9 PM

MAHALAGAT 10 PM

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon	Kapamilya Cinema																	
ABS-CBN 2																			
AXN																			
bTV	NBA Azzies	TV Shopping																	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Wixx Club	Madia Showdown	My Gym Friends	NBA At-Star	Forrest's Home	Murmo De Pon	Forrest's Home	Shamen King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen	Gundam Seed	Shamen King
Cinemax																			
CNN																			
Crime/Suspense																			
Discovery Channel																			
Disney Channel																			
ESPN																			
ETC																			
ETC 2nd Avenue																			
Fox News																			
GMA 7																			
Hallmark Channel																			
HBO																			
Hero TV																			
IBC 13																			
JackTV																			
Lifestyle Network																			
MTV Philippines																			
MYX																			
National Geographic																			
Net 25																			
Nickelodeon																			
PBO																			
QTV																			
RPM 9																			
SBN 21																			
Solar Sports																			
Star Movies																			
Star World																			
Studio 23																			
UnTV																			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

NBI manhunt on for 5 Tondo gang members

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A YEAR AFTER A GANG OF YOUNG men whom law enforcers described as "a serious community threat" in Tondo, Manila allegedly shot to death their neighbor, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has started an intensive manhunt for five of its members.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Interpol Division executive officer Dominador Villanueva said arrest warrants have been issued against Virgilio Cuevas Jr., believed to be the gang leader and a former criminology student of Limay Street, Tondo, Manila; Gerby Bernardo and Nino Marasigan, both of 3425 G. Santiago Street, Barrio Obrero, Tondo; Mark Lester Tenorio of Barangay 187, Zone 17, Tondo and Christopher Mariano of 1092 P. Salita One, Tondo.

Another suspect, Romeo Gemzon Jr., of La Loma Cemetery, was arrested two months ago at a Manila court as he was trying to confirm if charges had been filed against him and the other suspects. "The staff immediately contacted us after Gemzon, accompanied by his father, appeared at the court to make inquiries," Villanueva said in an interview.

The NBI official said the suspects, all members of the True Brown Style (TBS), have been the subject of several complaints in their community in Tondo for the past three years. "The TBS members, mostly aged 18 to 21, claim to have relatives or connections with the police or the barangay," Villanueva said. He added that he can be contacted at 5362851 for any information on the suspects' whereabouts.

Investigation conducted by the NBI Interpol Division showed that Noel Villagrancia, 41; his nephew Kristopher and friend Anthony Mendoza were walking on Limay Street shortly before midnight on Nov. 17, 2005 when they chanced upon the suspects.

Sensing that a gang war was about to erupt between the True Brown Style group and a rival gang, Villagrancia approached Cuevas and admonished him.

His warning, however, offended the suspects who ran after him and shot him with .38 caliber revolvers. Mariano then took out a bolo and slashed the victim's throat, the NBI investigation showed.

The gang members then mauled Villagrancia's companions but fortunately, they were able to escape. The victim later died in the hospital.



DOG'S DAY OUT

Young boys gawk at a Great Dane out on a picnic with his master in Rizal Park yesterday.

ERIK ARAZAS

A life well lived behind the wheel

From page A26

He also instilled in them discipline, perseverance and hard work and the value of always making time for one's family.

Charles Jr., his eldest son, sometimes acted as his father's konduktor.

Mang Charlie also often took his daughters, Malou and Curie, on picnics in Dagupan, with his wife.

Good man

"He is a very good man, a very good father and he worked hard for all of us," Charles Jr. said, to which Edwin, Manuel and Curie agreed.

Mang Charlie is just as proud of his children, sharing in their achievements and successes.

An especially happy moment for him was when his eldest son, Charles Jr., passed the entrance exam to the Philippine Military Academy.

Charles Calima Jr. is now a senior superintendent and the operations chief of the Philippine National Police Region 4-A. Two years ago, he was cited by President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang for his role in the dismantling of drug laboratories as operations chief of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force. Beside him was Mang Charlie.

"I brought Tatay to the awarding. It is probably one of the best gifts a son can ever give his father—to jointly receive an Award



SENIOR Supt. Charles Calima Jr. (back to the camera), Mang Charlie's eldest son, receives an award from President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. Beside him is his beaming father while looking on were then Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane (second from left) and Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force head Edgardo Aglipay. Charles Jr. was then recuperating from a leg injury which he had sustained in an ambush by suspected rebels when he was still Catanduanes police chief.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of Merit from no less than the President of the republic," Charles Jr. said.

His other siblings are also doing well. Marilou, who has a doctorate in education, is the high school principal of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in Bacnotan, La Union. Edwin and Manuel both work at the Land Transportation Office while Edward is a teacher in Pangasinan. Juanito is a businessman while Curie is a legal secretary at the Perez, Calima and Suratos Law Offices in Makati City.

Mang Charlie says he is content that all his hard work has paid off.

His only regret is that his wife, Nita, is no longer by his side.

Four years after her death, he still dreams about her. "Madalas, napapanaginipan ko asawa ko, katabi ko daw habang nagda-drive ako (I would often dream about my wife, sitting beside me while I'm driving)," he confessed.

Still, he is content. "Natupad yung mga pangarap ko para sa mga anak ko at masaya ako dahil dun. Pero sana nga lang, mas naging mahaba ang buhay ng asawa ko (All what I hoped for for my children came true and I am happy because of that. I just wish that my wife had lived longer)."

Police statistics show one person killed every 2 days

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AT LEAST ONE PERSON IS KILLED in the eastern part of Metro Manila every two days.

In addition, most of these killings are perpetrated at night, records of the Eastern Police District covering January to October this year showed.

In a recent crime statistics report, the police district said 115 of the reported murder cases in the area happened between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Police explained that brawls usually erupt during these hours when residents are usually gathered in drinking sessions.

Cases of physical injuries, robberies and theft are also common during the same hours, police added.

The district has jurisdiction over the small town of San Juan and the cities of Pasig, Mandaluyong and Marikina.

In the same report, the police district pointed out that in the

last 10 months, at least one resident is mauled or injured daily while someone is raped every eight days.

On the other hand, a robbery incident is reported almost every six days while a theft case occurs once every five days, according to the same report.

Robbery cases are those perpetrated with force and intimidation like bank robberies while theft cases include pickpocketing, burglaries and snatching.

In the same report, the police district claimed that crime volume in the last 10 months shrank by more than eight percent compared to the same period last year.

There were 1,091 index crimes reported from January-October 2005 compared to 990 index crimes reported during the same period this year, the police report added.

Index crimes, like the crimes mentioned above, are indicators of the peace and order situation in an area.

METROBRIEFS

Man dead in mishap

A SEPTUAGENARIAN who was trying to cross Commonwealth Avenue was hit and killed by a speeding bus yesterday morning. Francisco Castillo, 72, of Sta Cruz, Manila, died instantly after a passenger bus driven by Florentino Pagulayan Jr., 42, hit him as he was crossing the pedestrian lane in front of St. Peter Parish, police said. Christian Dico of the Quezon City Paramedic Rescue pronounced Castillo dead at past 9 a.m., police said. According to a report by investigator SPO2 Reynaldo Patiag of Quezon City Traffic Sector 5, an unidentified bus passenger was also hurt and taken to the hospital.

DJ Yap

Seminar schedule

TRITIUM Knowledge Center Publishing is conducting another seminar on "How to set up and manage an NGO or foundation" on Dec. 11, Monday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Richville Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Topics that will be discussed are getting organized, project design, planning, management, implementation, monitoring and sourcing funding, technical support or donations. For information, call TKCP at 5310084, 0919-2299777, 0919-2299780 or 0915-7804379.



ATTENTION Paranaque Mayor Bernabe: West Service Road from Bicutan to Sucat is so bumpy and uneven! Dikit-dikit ang lamp-post, lubak-lubak naman.

Adrian, Paranaque

I'm just worried about how difficult/dangerous it has become to cross the street, particularly along Commonwealth inside Greater Fairview just outside East Fairview/Metrobank, despite the pedestrian crossing. Just requesting the local government to build an overpass to make sure that everyone would be safe when crossing. This is also the way going to La Mesa Dam Eco Park.

Peter Kimpo, East Fairview

In our subdivision, New Capitol Estates 2, stray dogs roam freely. The association is not doing anything about it. Please help us report this to proper authorities. Thank you.

Carlo Quiaoit, Quezon City

The portion of Calle Industria in front of IDS going to Jollibee Manggahan is very dark. The Manggahan portion of A. Rodriguez going to Santolan, Pasig also has the same problem. It is very dangerous to motorists and for commuters since most of the call center agents pass by here.

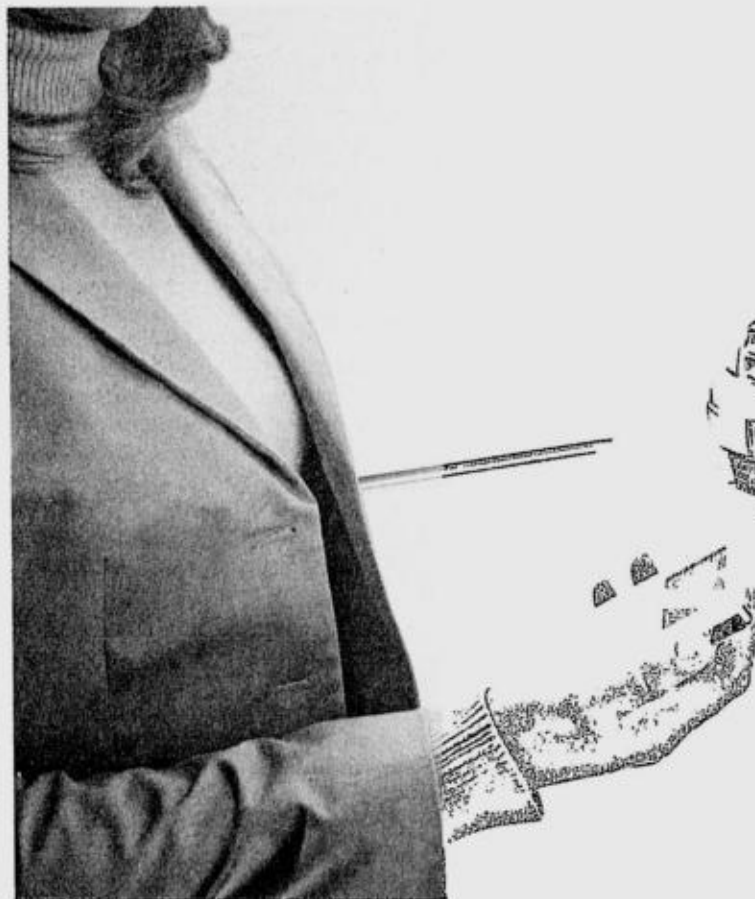
P. Salonga, Pasig

DID YOU KNOW

THE DAY before then President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, Congress had passed a bill abolishing the Weather Bureau and establishing the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). But the enactment of the infamous Proclamation 1081 aborted the final signing of the said bill.

On Dec. 8, 1972, Marcos issued Presidential Decree 78 establishing Pagasa which was tasked to use scientific information to protect life and property against natural hazards due to typhoons, floods, drought and tsunamis, among others. Pagasa's main office can be found on Agham Road in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



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* Subject to bank approval through BPI Family Savings Bank. Premium items can be claimed upon delivery of the vehicle.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4934 Series of 2006

Environmentalism to vie for Canada's top job

MONTREAL—A FORMER ENVIRONMENT minister beat the odds Saturday to become leader of Canada's opposition Liberals, and is likely to challenge Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives in a 2007 election.

Delegates picked long shot Stephane Dion, 51, over a hawkish ex-Harvard professor, an erstwhile Ontario premier, a hockey legend and four others at a weekend leadership convention here.

His win will mean "a lot of difficulties for Mr. Harper," Dion told reporters. "Our vision for the country is much more generous than his." "We are counting the days until the next election," he added in a victory speech, despite surveys suggesting he could not unseat Harper anytime soon.

In a surprise push, Dion, a sociologist who named his dog Kyoto after the global

climate change pact he helped shepherd at UN talks last year, overtook academic Michael Ignatieff in the third ballot, then won.

Ignatieff, 59, a world-renowned author, filmmaker and human rights champion who left a post at Harvard University to enter Canadian politics in 2005, initially led the contest to succeed former prime minister Paul Martin as party head.

But he fell to second spot in the third ballot when anti-poverty activist Gerard Kennedy dropped out and threw his support behind Dion.

Social democrat Bob Rae, who once led Canada's most populous province and economic engine, Ontario, bowed out after slipping to third place in the third round.

Some 5,000 delegates, chosen among 200,000 party members, cast their votes in

the contest to replace Martin, who resigned in January after losing a general election to Harper's Conservatives, ending 12 years of Liberal rule.

Ignatieff was wooed by senior Liberals to join the race, but provoked a backlash in October by accusing Israel of a "war crime" for attacking civilians in its conflict with Hezbollah months earlier.

Later, the son of a leading Canadian Cold War diplomat and grandson of czarist aristocrats who fled to Canada following the Russian Revolution sparked a contentious debate over Quebec nationalism.

He was also attacked for his support of the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Dion, the only candidate from francophone Quebec province, had positioned himself as an "acceptable compromise" to

the varied candidates wanting to lead the Liberals against Harper's Conservatives.

He studied in Paris and taught at Canadian universities from 1984 to 1996, before being elected to the House of Commons and becoming intergovernmental affairs minister in Jean Chretien's cabinet immediately afterwards.

His hardline federalist ideology and policies made him an outcast in his native Quebec, where separatists wield much clout.

But, he would shine from July 2004 when Paul Martin named him Canada's environment minister.

Dion presided over a United Nations climate change conference in Montreal in December 2005, shedding tears after securing a last-minute deal to save Kyoto Protocol negotiations from undoing. **AFP**



DION is covered with streamers at the Liberal Party convention in Montreal Dec. 2. **REUTERS**

Poisoned too over shared secret

LONDON/ROME—AN ITALIAN contact of poisoned former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko said he believed both were targeted with a radioactive substance because of secrets they shared.

Mario Scaramella said on Saturday urine tests showed he had received a potentially lethal dose of polonium 210—the rare radioactive isotope that killed Litvinenko—and "dangerous concentrations" of polonium would stay in his body for months.

"I have reason to believe that the poisoning of myself and Litvinenko may be connected to information that Litvinenko himself, for months, had transmitted to me," Scaramella said in a statement published by Italian media.

He did not accuse anyone of the poisoning or specify what kind of information Litvinenko had sent him.

Scaramella's dosage of polonium was significantly lower than that of Litvinenko but still considered "potentially lethal and, therefore, capable of killing me," he said.

Litvinenko's mysterious poisoning has sparked a public health scare and strained London's relations with Moscow.

From his deathbed, Litvinenko accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of ordering his slow and agonizing death.

The Kremlin denies any involvement and has promised full cooperation with the British investigation. Other theories have centered on the possible involvement of rogue Russian agents.

Scaramella said he felt well and had no symptoms of radiation sickness. But he said he would have to remain under strict medical supervision for months.

He said he was not suspected of killing Litvinenko and London police regarded him as a victim. "I hope to survive to be able to deny all of the defamation, written and spoken, against me," he said.

The London hospital treating Scaramella said he was well and initial tests showed no evidence of radiation sickness.

But Italian Senator Paolo Guzzanti, who spoke to Scaramella by phone, said health officials had told Scaramella the dose of polonium he had received is usually fatal. **Reuters**



CUBAN soldiers take part in a military parade at Revolution Square in Havana, Cuba, Dec. 2. Cuba's leader Fidel Castro failed to attend a military parade marking the 50th anniversary of the date he and his rebels launched their revolution. **AP**

Ailing Castro misses b'day celebrations

HAVANA—CUBA CAPPED 80TH birthday celebrations for Fidel Castro Saturday without a sign of the ailing leader, while his brother Raul, the interim president, invited arch-foe United States to negotiations.

The absence of Fidel Castro, who for more than four decades has led the communist Caribbean island, challenging its democratic US neighbor to the north, fueled new uncertainty about his health and Cuba's future.

Raul Castro's show of willingness to ease the standoff drew a swift response from Washington: no talks until the Cuban regime takes steps toward democracy.

"In the name of commander-in-chief Fidel Castro Ruz and my own, I salute you," Defense Minister Raul Castro told troops at a massive parade for Armed Forces Day.

Raul Castro neither carried a message from his brother nor made any allusions to the reasons for his absence at celebrations that have been held in the Cuban capital since Tuesday.

Cubans' high yet uncertain expectations had been focused on whether Fidel Castro would finally show up for the military parade, the country's first in a decade.

He has not been seen in public since July 26, the day before he underwent intestinal surgery, and last appeared in a video on Oct. 28 to refute rumors he was seriously ill or even dead.

If the bearded revolutionary had been on hand Saturday, it likely would have sent a message that his recovery was under way. **AP**

But Castro's absence from the parade in Revolution Square was a sign—still stunning for many Cubans—that he is unlikely to return to public life.

The military parade capped Castro's birthday celebrations and also commemorated the 1956 anniversary of the landing of the ship Granma, carrying 81 fighters including the Castro brothers and Argentine Ernesto "Che" Guevara, which helped spark the Cuban revolution.

Addressing Communist Party and military leaders, Raul Castro said Cuba was ready for negotiations with the United States, with conditions.

"Let me take this opportunity to express our willingness to settle the long US-Cuba disagreement at the negotiating table," he said.

"Of course, that is, as long as they accept that we are a country that does not tolerate any reduction of its independence, and based on the principles of equality, reciprocity, non interference and mutual respect," he said.

Willingness to talk with the United States if respected as an equal is standing Cuban policy.

In Washington, the US response was quick and firm.

"The dialogue that needs to take place is one between the Cuban regime and the Cuban people about the democratic future of the island," said Janelle Hironimus, a State Department spokesperson.

Almost 2,000 special guests had flown in for the lengthy "Fidel-fest," including friends such as Nobel literature laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. None so far reported having met with Fidel. **AFP**

In US, \$2-a-week burial insurance survives skeptics

JACKSON, MISS.—VICKIE T. White, who grew up in a small Mississippi town, remembers her parents' leaving an envelope each week for the burial insurance man.

So when her granddaughter was born, it seemed natural to buy a policy for her, White said. "But I wouldn't in a million years have imagined that I'd have to be using it two weeks before she turned 2."

After a collision in February left her daughter maimed and her granddaughter dead, White, 47,

an office worker, could afford to pick out a little coffin. "Without that policy, I don't know what I would have done," she said.

Over the decades, burial insurance has been marred by scams and racially discriminatory pricing, and experts say the policies are costlier than conventional term insurance.

But many lower-income people want a dignified funeral for themselves and their kin, and they have seen the crushing debts left by funerals that may cost well over \$5,000. Many feel they can-

not afford large life insurance policies but see small policies intended to cover funerals, costing as little as \$2 a week, as a priority.

"If I say I want to sell you life insurance, they say no," said Howard D. Catchings, who started selling small burial policies to blue-collar workers here in the late 1960s. "If I say burial insurance, they say yes."

Catchings, 67, said his agency sold up to 15,000 such policies a year, worth an average of \$5,000. When he started, he said, all the

customers were black, but he now sells to a growing share of white clients.

Insurance associations said they did not have figures on the number of policies covering burial expenses, in part because most are listed as life insurance.

On a sales visit to the Hinds County maintenance yards outside Jackson, Wye Hurd, an agent of the Catchings agency, hardly had to make a pitch. The customers, mainly black men in work clothes who earn perhaps \$10 to \$15 an hour, streamed in

to buy modest policies for themselves, spouses and children.

"For \$3 a week you'll be covered for \$6,000," Hurd told Bobby Jenkins, a 36-year-old repairman who is unmarried but has a 9-year-old son.

Jenkins signed up and authorized a second \$3 weekly payroll deduction to buy a policy for his son.

"My grandfather and parents always had burial policies on me," Jenkins said. "Now it's time I should do this."

New York Times News Service

Millionaire president seen winning in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO—THE GIANT Indian Ocean island of Madagascar began voting on Sunday in a presidential election widely expected to be won by incumbent Marc Ravalomanana, a self-made dairy tycoon.

Voting on the world's fourth biggest island started calmly at 7 a.m. and was due to end at 6 p.m. The winner will need more than 50 percent of votes to avoid a second round runoff.

Ravalomanana, who won power in 2002 after a bitter eight-month crisis that brought Madagascar close to civil war, is bidding for a second term to continue economic reforms in one of the world's poorest countries.

The dairy tycoon has run a slick campaign on the strategic island, eclipsing lackluster efforts by his opponents, and could win outright in Sunday's first round.

If he falls short of this, a second round will be held in late January.

Ravalomanana, who began his career selling yogurts from the back of a bike, confirmed his frontrunner

status on Friday when he pulled in more than 30,000 enthusiastic supporters to his last campaign rally.

Final rallies by his opponents attracted less than a thousand people.

Many Madagascans believe the result is a foregone conclusion even though some, especially in the cities where the impact of rising global oil prices is felt most strongly, say the president did not do enough in his first term to combat poverty.

There are 13 opposition candidates, including the only woman, Elia Ravelomanantsoa. But several are boycotting the poll and the others started their campaigns late after haggling over procedural issues.

The strongest challenge is likely to come from veteran politician Norbert Lala Ratsirahonana, 68, a former prime minister who many expect to face Ravalomanana if the vote goes to a second round.

The next strongest challenger is businessman Herizo Razafimahaleo, a Western-educated economist

who has attacked Ravalomanana's record in combating Madagascar's extreme poverty.

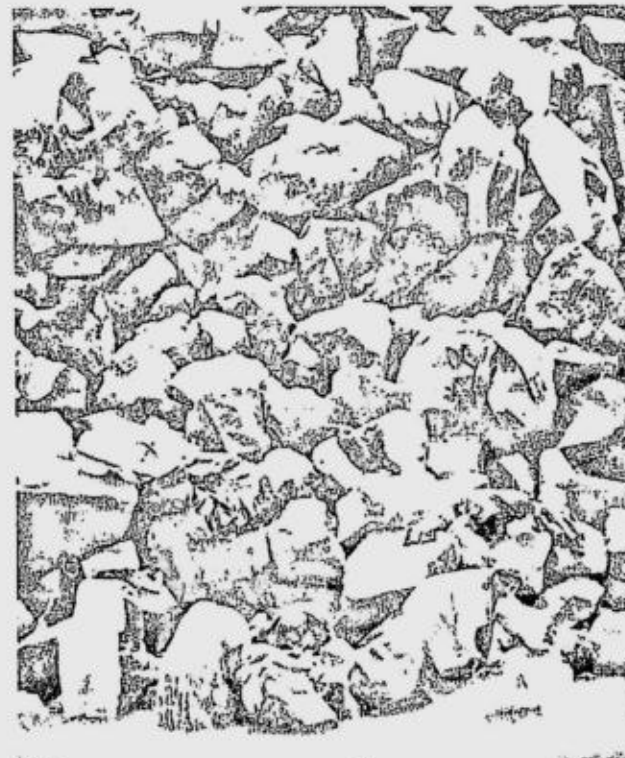
But Western donors and many Madagascans, especially in the countryside, credit Ravalomanana with starting significant reforms to repair the economy including an ambitious road building program.

The World Bank said recently that the program, which has greatly improved the access of farmers to their markets, had nurtured the longest period of rural growth in 30 years.

Because of this, many Madagascans seem ready to give Ravalomanana a second chance despite a drop in his popularity since he first came to power in 2002, when he ousted former President Didier Ratsiraka after a disputed election and the bitter political crisis.

Madagascar is the world's top vanilla grower and a source of precious gems.

Nevertheless it remains one of the poorest countries in the world with 75 percent of its population living on less than \$1 a day. **AP**



WOMEN wash and dry clothes along the banks of a river in Antananarivo Dec. 2 a day before the country's presidential elections. **REUTERS**



CLAUDE JADE; 58
Picture dated 1968 of French actress Claude Jade, during the shooting of Alfred Hitchcock's film "Topaz." Jade died of cancer Dec. 1 in Paris at the age of 58. **AFP**

Fiji commander says he'll stage coup within hours



BAINIMARAMA watching a rugby match in Suva, Fiji, Friday, Dec. 1.

SUV—FIJI'S MILITARY IS LIKELY TO force the embattled government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase to step aside on Monday, military chief Commander Frank Bainimarama said and warned Qarase not to oppose him.

"Transition is expected to take place tomorrow as a deadline," Bainimarama told Fijian-language television on Sunday.

Fiji's political crisis has reached breaking point amid widely held fears that the South Pacific island nation's fourth coup in 20 years was imminent.

Qarase and Bainimarama have been embroiled in a power struggle all year. Bainimarama gave the government a list of "non-negotiable" demands almost a fortnight ago and threatened a "clean up campaign." Bainimarama told Fijian television that he expected Qarase's government, re-elected in May for a second five-year term, to "give in peacefully" and leave office.

"If resistance happens, the military

will not be very kind and will come after first those who are inciting the resistance," he said.

"It will be in the best interest of the prime minister not to resist his removal," said Bainimarama, who issued the government a deadline of last Friday to meet his demands.

Qarase said earlier on Sunday that he had called an emergency meeting of his cabinet for Tuesday. Asked if he thought the military was about to remove him from office, Qarase said: "No."

"What he's been saying, that will be totally illegal, it shall be against the constitution of Fiji, against the laws of Fiji, and it will amount to treason," Qarase told reporters.

Bainimarama said that if Qarase opposed the military he would be sent to Nukunono island where George Speight, the leader of a 2000 coup by armed indigenous nationalists, is serving a life sentence for treason.

Bainimarama said he was planning an interim government but that

its line-up had yet to be finalized and that the transition would be "peaceful." "No one should be frightened about what's going to happen in the next couple of days," he said.

The streets of the capital Suva were quiet and calm on Sunday as Qarase and Bainimarama joined thousands of church-goers in the deeply religious nation. Qarase had asked his people on Saturday to pray for their country.

Bainimarama installed Qarase as interim leader after declaring martial law to put down the 2000 coup, but now accuses him of being too soft on those behind that coup and a failed but bloody mutiny linked to it in which the commander was almost killed.

A Fijian newspaper, the Sunday Post, quoted unidentified government and military sources as saying the military would begin its "clean up" of the government at 3 a.m. on Monday.

Fiji's political crisis has alarmed its

South Pacific neighbors, with Australia sending three warships to the area in case it needs to evacuate holidaying nationals. Bainimarama has said his military would oppose any foreign intervention.

The United States, Britain and the United Nations have all warned Bainimarama not to attempt to take over the government, with concerns that another coup would devastate the fragile local economy based on tourism and sugar.

Bainimarama has repeatedly threatened to remove Qarase's government unless it drops three pieces of legislation, including a bill that would grant amnesty to those involved in a 2000 coup.

Qarase has bowed to most of his demands, including suspending the three bills, but Bainimarama is still not satisfied.

He accuses Qarase of having people associated with the 2000 coup in his government and high public offices.

Reuters

Few witnesses, little comprehension in forest where USSR died

BELAVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA, Belarus—The deal was done deep in this ancient forest, far from prying eyes, leaving locals as confused as millions of their countrymen the day they heard the Soviet Union had been signed out of existence.

"It was so huge. It was hard even for politicians to understand and for us ordinary people it was unreal," said Natalya, a guide at a museum near where the Soviet Union was disbanded by the then leaders of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in 1991.

Friday Dec. 8 marks the 15th anniversary of the agreement that formally ended the Soviet Union, an event that some politicians have yet to fully come to terms with—not least Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko.

The three men responsible were unsure where their discussions would lead as they arrived at a hunting lodge built for former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in the Belavezhszkaya Pushcha—a forest that spans the Belarussian-Polish border.

Far from planning the documents that became known as the Belavezha Accords, the then Belarussian leader, Stanislav Shushkevich, says he wanted to discuss economic problems and

thought he could tempt Russia's Boris Yeltsin with an invitation to do a spot of hunting.

But events were moving fast and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk was invited along after his country declared independence on Dec. 1.

Still, Shushkevich said in a recent interview, "no one could have said even three hours before that we would take (the) decision"—and issue the formal declaration that the Soviet Union had "ceased to exist." Accordingly, no secretariat staff were on hand at the hunting lodge and a typist had to be hurriedly summoned from the nearby offices of the wildlife reserve.

When he eventually caught wind of it, the signing was roundly criticized by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. His authority already weakened by an August coup, he complained bitterly that he had been informed after the US White House.

There were immediate unpleasant effects, recalls the deputy head of a local school in the

village of Kamenyuky, Yelena Kolada, who echoes the regret felt by many ex-Soviet citizens.

"There was a sense of shame—a great power had fallen," she said, recalling how people rushed to get hold of US dollars as inflation skyrocketed here and elsewhere in the former Soviet bloc.

At the local wildlife reserve museum no exhibit records the Belavezha Accords, perhaps reflecting official distaste in this east European country that has yet to take the reformist path of its western neighbors, the Baltic states and Poland.

Like Russian President Vladimir Putin, Belarus' President Lukashenko is nostalgic for the old days. He mused recently that Belarus could team up with Ukraine in some new "weighty" combination that others would "take notice of."

But not everyone shares his nostalgia and some look enviously to-

wards the West.

"They were more organized," said Natalya, the museum guide, of the Baltic states, recalling those countries' determination to be rid of Moscow and how the Soviet Union's end was hastened by bloody crackdowns in the Latvian capital Riga and the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

"Once they started shooting people in Riga there was no going back. It was a chain reaction. I accepted it," said Natalya, who asked that her surname be withheld.

"Today as Belarus' western neighbors feel the benefits of free-market reforms and membership of the European Union and Nato, this cor-

ner of Europe is in some ways stuck in a time warp.

On long-distance trains, travelers find that the carriages are still furnished with faded carpets unrolled by an attendant at the start of each journey, while tea is served in a glass in an ornately embossed metal holder.

Some remain angry at what happened 15 years ago: "It was all decided by three people but there were 15 republics—Gorbachev was too soft," one elderly Kamenyuky resident said, refusing to give his name.

But Natasha, a former accountant, blames the country's present problems not on the fall of the Soviet Union but on the politicians currently running Belarus. Lukashenko "takes everything," Natasha said.

AFP

WORKERS walk on a scaffolding as they build a skating rink in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square Dec. 1.

REUTERS

India train crushed by old bridge

NEW DELHI—THE DEATH TOLL from the partial collapse of a 140-year-old bridge on top of an intercity passenger train in eastern India rose to 34 Sunday, a spokesperson of the state-run rail company said.

"The death toll so far is 34 and the injured has come down to 17," Samir Goswami, a spokesperson for India's Eastern Railways, said.

Rail officials had earlier placed the toll at 33 dead and 18 injured in the accident at Bhagalpur rail station in the Indian state of Bihar.

Deputy rail security chief Ajay Verma said Saturday a total of 27 unclaimed bodies had been placed on the station's platform for identification.

"Some of the corpses are mangled beyond recognition," an eyewitness said, as teams of emergency doctors reached the site.

Rail officials were unsure how many passengers were in the coach when an arch of a partially dismantled old bridge fell on it, but said that at least 30 passengers emerged unscathed from one end of the car just after the incident.

Rescue operations wrapped up Saturday evening after railway officials said they were satisfied the coach was empty of survivors or bodies, but track clearing continued into Sunday.

AFP

Georgia solon's wife battles deportation order

ATLANTA—THE WIFE OF A Georgia legislator known for his strong support of immigrants' rights is in hiding after federal agents came to their home on Tuesday with an order to deport her to her native Colombia, her lawyer said.

In a written statement issued Wednesday, state Sen. Curt Thompson, 37, a Democrat, said his wife, Sascha Herrera, 28, missed an immigration-related court hearing in February 2005. Thompson said notices about an asylum application that had been mistakenly filed on her behalf had been sent to the wrong address, causing her

to miss the hearing.

Because Herrera did not appear in court, a federal judge issued a deportation order in February 2005, Charles H. Kuck, Herrera's immigration lawyer, said on Friday.

Kuck said Thompson told him that his wife was not at the couple's home when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrived Tuesday to take her into custody. Kuck would say only that Herrera was in a safe place.

"We're making an arrangement, we hope, for her to come in Monday morning," Kuck said, adding that he would try

to persuade an immigration judge to reopen Herrera's case.

Advocates of immigrants' rights say Herrera's situation is another indication of how Byzantine is the system for applying for legal residency in this country.

"It's a very, very onerous system," said state Sen. Sam Zamarripa, a Democrat who was the first Hispanic elected to the Georgia Senate. "If the wife of a state senator can't handle it, how can we expect people who are working in our labor force to handle the bureaucracy?"

Marc Raimondi, a spokesperson for Immigration and Cu-

stoms Enforcement in Washington, said he could not comment on the specifics of Herrera's case. Generally, Raimondi said, "People who are here legally are very, very careful about their immigration status." Of the couple's claims of ignorance about the notices, he said, "It sounds like a lot of song and dance."

Thompson represents parts of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties, in a district where about one in four residents is foreign born.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution quoted him as saying that he asked immigration offi-

cials about Herrera's status before their marriage in April 2006—more than a year after the deportation order was issued—and was told that she was in the country legally. Because her husband is a US citizen, after their marriage, Herrera also applied for an adjustment of her status to become a permanent resident and obtain a green card. But the approval process is lengthy, Kuck said.

If she is deported, Herrera could be barred from reentering the United States for 10 years, Kuck said, "so we have to work with extreme speed to try to fix this."

NYT

Chavez rides Venezuela's economic boom

CARACAS, VENEZUELA—TO UNDERSTAND why Hugo Chavez seems set for victory in Sunday's presidential election and a strengthened mandate for what he calls a socialist revolution, consider the vigor here of that most capitalist of institutions: the stock exchange.

Housed in El Rosal, an upscale district with new skyscrapers and hotels, the 59-year-old Caracas stock exchange was the site of frenzied trading this week. Its main index climbed to a record high of 46,741, topping off a 129.2 percent rise this year that has made it one of the world's

best performing markets.

"For all of Chavez's faults, his government has been extremely pragmatic in economic terms," said Jose Guerra, a former chief of economic research at Venezuela's central bank. "State-supported capitalism isn't just surviving under Chavez. It is thriving."

Often lost in the campaigning between Chavez and his challenger, Manuel Rosales, is that Venezuela, with the largest conventional petroleum reserves outside the Middle East, is having one of the most significant oil booms in its history. Economic growth this year is set to pass 10 percent, making

Venezuela the fastest-growing economy in the Americas.

The Chavez government, while wrapping itself in socialist imagery—like red clothing—and deepening its alliance with Fidel Castro's Cuba, has made this expansion possible by quietly working with Venezuela's banking system. The rush of petrodollars into the economy has led bank deposits to climb 84 percent in the past 12 months, according to Softline Consultores, a financial consulting business here.

Oil is at the heart of the development model. Venezuela, in contrast to oil-exporting countries like Mexico or Saudi Arabia that tightly cir-

cumscribe the operations of foreign oil companies, produces oil in ventures with some of the largest private energy companies, including Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell. And the government works closely with Venezuelan and foreign banks to maintain economic stability.

Unlike Rafael Correa, the newly elected president of Ecuador, who plans to renegotiate the foreign debt, Chavez has made every effort to meet Venezuela's obligations with foreign lenders. As a result, markets still consider Venezuelan bonds about as safe an investment as bonds issued by Brazil, a neighboring industrial powerhouse. NYT



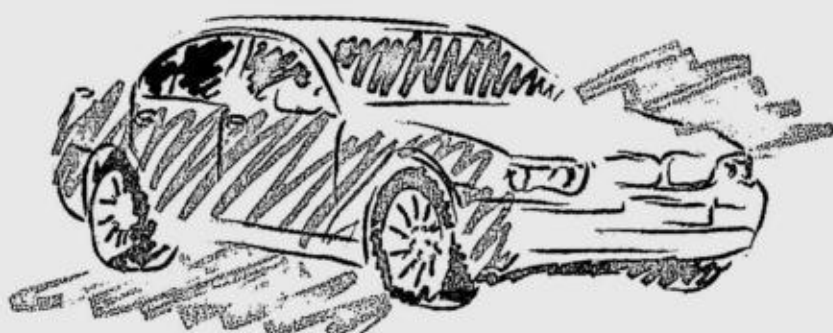
CHAVEZ, who is standing for re-election.

REUTERS



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A30

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



AN IRAQI woman cries at the scene where her husband was killed in Saturday's car bomb attacks at a market in Baghdad Dec. 3.

REUTERS

3 car bomb attacks kill 51 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AS A TRIPLE car bomb attack rocked the center of the Iraqi capital on Saturday, in a gruesome reminder of similar bombings in a Shiite district of Baghdad the previous week.

The massive blasts ripped through the crowded commercial district as many Iraqis hurried home before nightfall, killing 51 people and wounding another 90, security officials said. Many of the dead were women.

Together with corpses found around the city, the toll for Saturday was a staggering 110 killed.

A defense official told AFP the first blast appeared to target an Iraqi army Humvee jeep patrolling the central Rusafa district at sunset. There were soldiers among the casualties, but he could not say how many.

The second blast followed immediately with the third just a few moments later, rocking windows 500 meters away on the opposite bank of the Tigris River. Shortly afterwards gunfire erupted around the city.

Ten shops were burned out in the blasts near Al-Wathba square, a historic commercial area popular with Shiite Kurds, and 13 civilian cars destroyed, said an interior ministry official, warning the death toll was expected to rise.

Around an hour after the detonations, five more blasts were heard, apparently mortars fired by one of the city's warring armed groups.

Saturday's attack followed a major security operation the previous day a short distance further north in the Fadhel neighborhood, in which

Iraqi and US forces raided suspected insurgent hideouts and arrested 28 suspects.

The bombings recalled a deadly attack on Nov. 23 carried out in Baghdad's Sadr City district when three car bombs went off at various spots killing 202 people in by far the worst attack in Iraq since the 2003 invasion.

The Sadr City bombing triggered Shiite reprisals against Sunnis and at least four Sunni mosques bore their brunt.

Police also reported finding 44 bodies in Baghdad throughout the day, 33 of them in the Sunni-dominated western half of the city.

In other violence across Iraq on Saturday, 15 more people were killed as insurgents and sectarian militia launched gun and bomb attacks in the region around the war-torn capital.

Five Iraqi soldiers returning to their base north of Baghdad in civilian clothes were killed when insurgents sprayed their cars with automatic fire, Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Hassan of the Balad police told AFP.

Elsewhere, at least 10 other people were killed.

US press reports suggest that Washington is despairing of winning over the embittered Sunni minority and is planning instead to rebuild its bridges with the divided nation's Shiites in a bid to rein in their unofficial militias.

AFP

US forces kill 6 rebels, 2 women, child

BAGHDAD—US FORCES KILLED six insurgents, two women and a child in the course of an operation that involved an air strike west of Baghdad, the US military reported Sunday.

During the raid, which took place late on Saturday night in Gharmah, a town between Baghdad and the restive city of Fallujah, US forces decided that the best way to deal with the target 'building—described as a known insurgent hideout—was to call in an air strike.

"Coalition forces determined that the use of precision fires against the building provided the greatest safety measures for both the surrounding residents and friendly forces by avoiding the possibility of stray small arms rounds during a firefight," said the statement.

While the surrounding residents were spared stray bullets, the two women and child in the house, were caught by the air strike and killed, along with five other men.

Just prior to the air strike, a number of men were seen leaving the house and moving to adjacent buildings, these were engaged and one was killed and three others detained.

Further search of the area revealed a weapons cache.

The latest civilian casualties came the same week that five Iraqi girls were killed by tank rounds targeting insurgents in Ramadi and two women were killed north of Baghdad during another air strike against insurgents.

AFP

Rumsfeld urged major adjustment in Iraq strategy

WASHINGTON—TWO DAYS before he resigned as defense secretary, Donald H. Rumsfeld submitted a classified memo to the White House that acknowledged that the Bush administration's strategy in Iraq was not working and called for a major course correction.

"In my view it is time for a major adjustment," wrote Rumsfeld, who has been a symbol of a dogged stay-the-course policy. "Clearly, what US forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough."

Nor did Rumsfeld seem confident that the administration would readily develop an effective alternative. To limit the political fallout from shifting course, he suggested the administration consider a campaign to lower public expectations.

"Announce that whatever new approach the US decides on, the US is doing so on a trial basis," he wrote. "This will give us the ability to readjust and move to another course, if necessary, and therefore not 'lose.'"

Recast the US military mission and the US goals (how we talk about them)—go minimalist," he added. Rumsfeld's memo suggests frustration with the pace of turning over responsibility to the Iraqi authorities; in fact, the memo calls



RUMSFELD

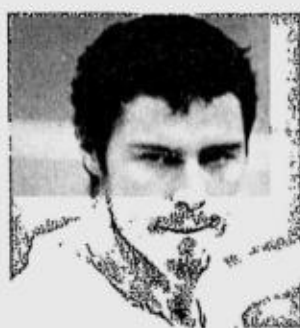
AP

for examination of ideas that roughly parallel troop withdrawal proposals presented by some of the White House's sharpest Democratic critics.

The memo's discussion of possible troop reduction options offers a counterpoint to Rumsfeld's frequent public suggestions that discussions about force levels are driven by requests from US military commanders. Instead, the memo puts on the table several ideas for troop redeployments or withdrawals that appear to conflict with recent public pronouncements from commanders in Iraq emphasizing the need to maintain troop levels.

The memorandum sometimes has a finger-wagging tone as Rumsfeld says that the Iraqis must "pull up their socks" and suggests reconstruction aid should be withheld in violent areas to avoid rewarding "bad behavior."

NYT



SPORT

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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15TH ASIAN GAMES

Dionisio, Molina fail to deliver

Payla clinches q'final berth

By Teddyvic S. Melendres
Sports Editor

DOHA, QATAR—THE HAZARDS of competing against some of the world's toughest athletes exacted a heavy toll on the Philippine campaign on the third day of 15th Asian Games here as Filipinos took a beating on all but two fronts.

On a day mighty China pulled away in the medal tally with 17 gold medals, trap shooter Jethro Dionisio and swimmer Miguel Molina came closest to nailing the Philippines' first medal with fourth- and sixth-place finishes.

Meanwhile, flyweight boxer Violito Payla reached the quarterfinals with another impressive victory, eliminating Vietnam's Viet Tran Quoc, 35-11. Featherweight Anthony Marcial, who overwhelmed Sathit Keo Inhta, 31-7, late Saturday, was also going for a second straight win and a place in the quarterfinals against Iraq's Mahdi Suraka at prestime.

Dionisio barged into the six-man shoot-off for the men's individual trap gold with a fourth-best score of 110 on strings of 23-19-24-21-23 but came up short, missing three of his last six birds in the windy confines of the Lusail Shooting Range north of Doha.

Molina gave it everything he had but still wound up behind two world-ranked Japanese and a South Korean in the finals of the gruelling 400-meter individual medley late Saturday.

Kuwait's Naser Meqlad, the leader after the first three strings in the men's individual trap, went all the way, stunning reigning world champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu, 133-130, for the gold medal after the shoot-off. The bronze went to another Kuwaiti, Khaled Adlmudhaf (128).

Molina's courageous fourth-place finish underscored the gulf of difference between RP clockings



MARIA Cecilia Yap prepares to roll during the Asian Games women's singles bowling finals. The event was still being played at presstime. **LYN RILLON**

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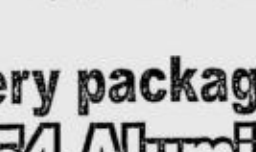
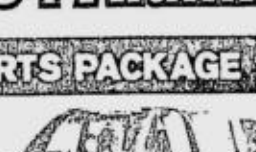
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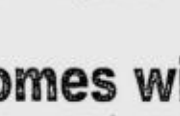
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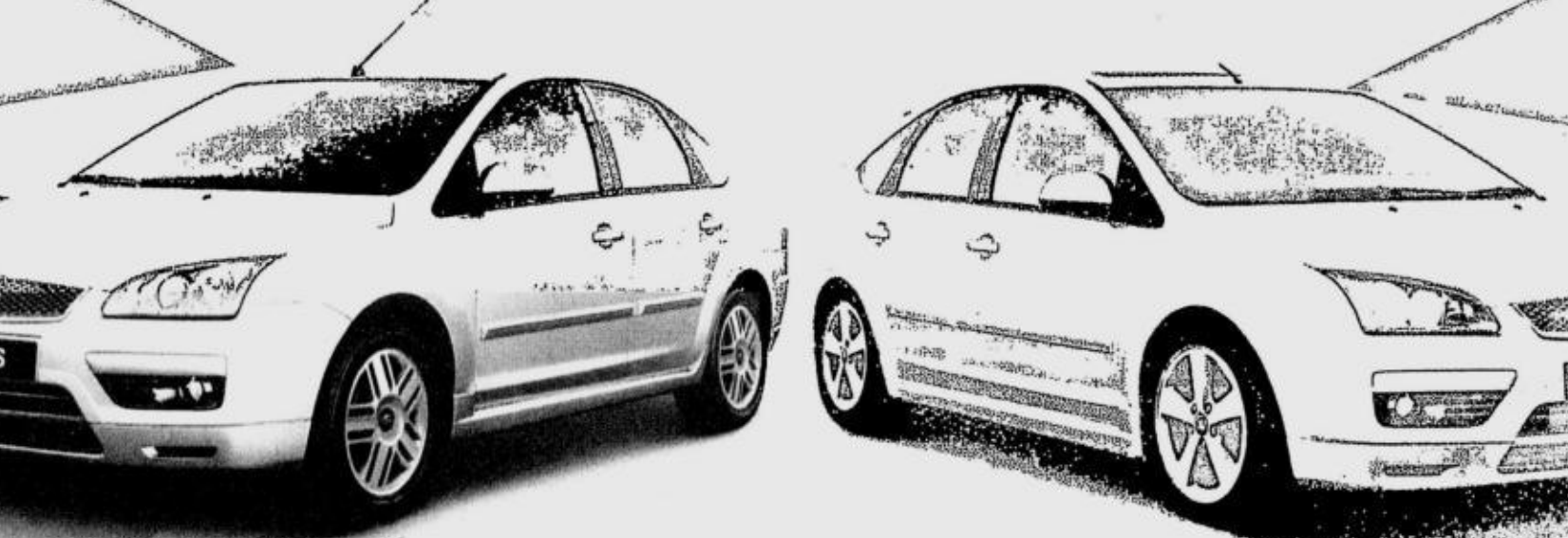


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Mamiit and Co. get going today

By Teddyvic S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—WORLD-RANKED FILIPINO-AMERICAN aces Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino team up with Johnny Arcilla and PJ Tierro as the dark horse Philippine squad opens its campaign in the expectedly tough men's team competition in tennis in the 15th Asian Games here today.

Mamiit, ranked fourth in the singles competition behind South Korea's Lee Hyung-taik, Thailand's Paradorn Srichapan and a Taiwanese, should be able to jell well again with Southeast Asian Games doubles partner Taino and the young Tierro, RP tennis officials said.

The billiards and snooker squad likewise tries to pocket its first victories as Reynaldo Grandea plunges into action in the English billiards singles and the pair of Leonardo Andam and Alvin Punzalan sets out for the difficult task of running out the world-caliber field in

the men's snooker doubles.

Their morale undoubtedly lifted by the tandem of victories scored by flyweight Violito Payla and featherweight Anthony Marcial on Saturday, the boxing squad sends three more men into the fray hoping to keep in touch with powerhouses South Korea and Thailand.

The highly regarded tenpin bowlers return to action with three pairs each vying for the Philippines' first gold medal in the men's and women's competitions at the slick Qatar Bowling Center. The men's six-game final starts at 9

a.m. while the women's medal contests get under way at 5:30 p.m.

Action in judo resumes with Gilbert Ramirez clashing with Lebanon's Joe Tony Nasr in the -73kg category and Estie Gaw Liwanen battling Harashani Herath of Sri Lanka in the -57kg class in the afternoon.

Roel Ramirez, who on Saturday wound up sixth-best in the field of 222 in the vault, his favorite routine, competes for a decent final placing in the men's all-around event at the sprawling Aspire sports complex.

Earlier in the morning, the veteran Benjie Tolentino pairs up with Jose Rodriguez in rowing's double sculls repechage in the cold waters of the West Bay Lagoon, north of the capital before lone RP woman cycling entry Marites Bitbit fights for a medal in the road race around the seafloor streets of Doha.

A tough match is expected for spikers Parley Tupaz and Rhovyl Velayo when they try to score a second victory in beach volleyball against the heavily favored Chinese pair of Li Jian and Zhou Nan in the sprawling Sport City, a venue that holds simultaneous competitions in five sports, including boxing, under one roof.

As the fagged-out Miguel Molina and James Walsh rest up aching muscles for tomorrow's battles, compatriots Daniel Coackley and Kendrick Uy vie in the heats of the 50-meter freestyle, Erica Totten and Marichu Gandionco in the 400m freestyle and 200m butterfly and Gerard Bordo in the 100m butterfly.

Molina, the University of California at Berkeley standout, complained of exhaustion after settling for fourth place in the men's 400m individual medley won in 4 minutes 16.18 seconds by Japan's Hidemasa Sano, a short-course specialist who campaigns in Europe.



DIANE Pascua soars for a spike in the beach volleyball competition. Pascua and Heidi Ilustre won against Kazakhstan's Marina Storozhenko and Yelena Alenkina.

LYN RILLON

RP Schedule Dec. 4

Beach volleyball (Sport City)—1 p.m.; Parley Tupaz/Rhovyl Velayo (RP) vs Li Jian/Zhou Shun (China)

Boxing (Aspire)—Starting at 2 p.m.; Light flyweight—Godfrey Castro (RP) vs Zaimai Azizi Mohamed (Malaysia); Bantamweight—Joan Tipon (RP) vs Liu Shih Jung (Taipei); Lightweight—Genebert Basadre (RP) vs Asghar Ali Shah (Pakistan)

Bowling (Qatar Bowling Center)—9 a.m.; Men's doubles (final); 5:30 p.m.; Women's doubles (final)

Chess (Al-Dana Club)—Rounds 7, 8 and 9; Men's rapid event (Ronald Dableo, Darwin Laylo); Women's rapid event (Jedara Docena); Cue sports (Al Sadd Sports Club)—Starting at 10 a.m.; Men's snooker doubles (Leonardo Andam/Alvin Punzalan); English Billiards singles (Reynaldo Grandea)

Cycling road—12:30 p.m.; Women's Road Race (Baby Marites Bitbit)

Gymnastics (Aspire)—2 p.m.; Men's All-around (Roel Ramirez)

Judo (Qatar Sports Club)—Starting at 2 p.m.; 73 kg—Gilbert Ramirez (RP) vs Joe Tony Nasr (Lebanon); -57 kg—Estie Gay Liwanen (RP) vs Harashani Herath (Sri Lanka)

Rowing (West Bay Lagoon)—Men's Double Sculls Repechage; 10 a.m. (Benjie Tolentino, Jose Rodriguez)

Swimming (Hamad Aquatic Center)—Heats starting at 10 a.m.; finals at 6 p.m.; Men's 50-meter freestyle (Daniel Coackley, Kendrick Uy); Women's 400-meter freestyle (Erica Totten, Marichu Gandionco); Men's 100-meter breaststroke (Gerard Bordo); Women's 200-meter butterfly (Erica Totten, Marichu Gandionco)

Tennis (Khalifa International Complex) 10 a.m.; Men's team event (Cecil Mamiit, Eric Taino, Johnny Arcilla, PJ Tierro); 4 p.m.—Women's team event (Carina Mae Arevalo, Denise Dy)

Dionisio, Molina fail to deliver

From page A31

and those of the world-caliber opposition at the Hamad Aquatics Center here.

The student of International Relations at the University of California-Berkeley timed a respectable four minutes and 28.44 seconds but it was still 6.66 seconds off the bronze-medal pace of Korean Han Kyu-chul.

Japan's Hidemasa Sano took the gold in 4:16.18 with compatriot Shinya Taniguchi clinching the silver in 4:17.91.

Filipino-American James Walsh managed to sneak into the finals of the 200m butterfly with the eight-best time but eventually wound up dead-last with a time of 2:01.95.

The exceptionally high scoring in tenpin bowling's women's singles put to shade the best efforts the six Filipinas among the 77 entries could muster.

Cecilia Yap averaged 204.5 pinfalls on games of 195-223-190-180-239 and 200 to show the way for the embattled Filipinas in the event topped by Indonesia's Putty Insavilla Armein, who averaged 232.5.

Thailand's Angkana Netviseth beat Japan's Kanako Ishimine to the silver by the skin of her teeth, 221.8-221.7. The next 15 finishers normed 205.5 pinfalls or better.

Marianne Daisy Posadas was the next best Filipina with a 202.3 average, followed by Liza Clutario (184.7) and Irene Garcia-Benitez (176.0). Jojo Canare and Liza del Rosario still had a game each to go and averaged 197.8 and 195.3, respectively.

The men's singles finals were still being played at press time.

Arnel Quirimit lost touch with the lead peloton as early as 25 kilometers into the race and settled for joint 13th place with five others in the cycling road race won by 1997 Marlboro Tour winner and former Asiad champion Wong Kam-po of Hong Kong.

Quirimit clocked three hours, 55 minutes and



DABLEO: Big victory

17 seconds in the street circuit race, 10:15 minutes behind Wong, silver medalist Mehdi Sohrabi of Iran and bronze winner Pang Sung-baek of South Korea. Teammate Warren Davadilla shadowed SEA Games gold medalist Dang Trung Hieu and wound up tied with the Vietnamese in 24th place, 25.50 minutes of the winning pace.

Disappointment continued in the pool yesterday with Molina, Walsh, Ernest Lorenzo Dee, Kendrick Uy and Gerard Bordo bombing out of their respective events.

After settling for third in Heat 3 of the 50m breaststroke and failing to make it to the medal round-only the best two finishers advanced-Molina also got the door in the 200m freestyle. He finished fourth with a time of 1:54.62.

Walsh wound up fifth in his heat of the 100m butterfly (55.91 seconds) before Dee finished sixth (57.18) in his heat.

Uy was last in Heat 4 of the 200m free in 2:04.80 and Bordo was sixth in the 50m breaststroke in 30.15 seconds.

The hastily prepared RP batters absorbed a third straight beating, going down 2-14, to

perennial favorite South Korea at the Al-Rayyan complex in the desert north of here.

National Open champion Darwin Laylo drew with grandmasters back-to-back to stay in the hunt. Laylo halved the point with Qatar's Mohammed Al Medaihi and then with Iran's Ehsan Ghaem Maghami to be in 10th place with 2 points after three rounds in men's rapid Swiss.

Former Asian Zonal champion Ronald Dableo held Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung to a draw but dropped his next match with the black pieces to Chinese GM Bu Xiangxi in the third round. He was stuck in 44th place with 1.5 points, the same output of teenage chess whiz Jodera Docena in women's play.

The 14-year-old Docena lured Bangladeshi Samima to drawish lines in the second round before bowing to the sixth-seed Woman GM Nguyen Thi Thanh An.

Dableo came back strongly in the fourth round yesterday and upset Indonesian GM Utut Adianto to raise his score to 2.5.

Also late Saturday, Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre proved steadier at crunch time in the fine desert sand of the Sport City complex to get past the Kazakhstan pair of Marina Storozhenko and Yelena Alenkina, 21-16, 11-21, 17-15, in women's beach volleyball.

Benjamin Tolentino Jr. and Jose Rodriguez topped heat 3 of the men's double sculls in rowing with a time of 3:58.27 to reach the semifinals but Alvin Amposta and Nilo Cordova was relegated to the repechage in the men's lightweight double sculls by placing second in heat 3 in 4:02.82.

Gymnast Roel Ramirez wound up sixth-best in the field of 222 in the vault, his favorite routine, late Saturday but was never a factor in the rest of the disciplines in the men's individual qualification.

John Baylon won his first match, beating Saeed Akhtar of Pakistan in judo's 81kg division.

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China	21	6	3	30
Japan	3	7	3	13
South Korea	2	4	12	18
Kuwait	2	0	1	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	3	4
Hong Kong	1	0	1	2
India	0	3	2	5
Thailand	0	3	1	4
North Korea	0	2	1	3
Iran	0	2	0	2
Singapore	0	1	1	2
Vietnam	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Chi. Taipei	0	0	2	2
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2
Lebanon	0	0	1	1

SPORTSWATCH

Koi Village makes it seven straight

KOI VILLAGE RELIED ON VETERAN CENTER EJ FEIHL TO ESCAPE WITH A nail-biting 85-80 win over Espiritu Cup champion 5th Avenue Telecoms in the 2006 Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros, Manila. Feihl threw his weight around as he scored 26 points and swatted away seven shots to power Koi Village of team managers Terry Que and Jimi Lim to its seventh straight win in the six-team, double-round tournament. Jerry Hernandez topscored with 28 points for Koi, which bucked the loss of ace gunner Gherome Ejercito to injury early in the second period. San Sebastian College-Cavite mainstays Jerome Cenita and Glen Bolocan carried the fight for 5th Avenue with 24 and 18 points, respectively.

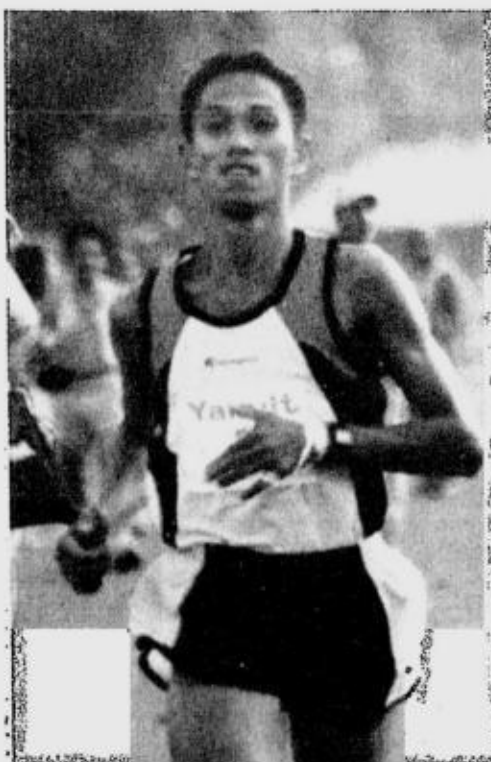
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TOP SMASHERS

Larry Cochanco (left), of Franzia distributor Fly Ace Corp., awards trophies to Barbie Macaraig and Jen Dimaculangan after the pair won the Franzia Badminton Smash level 1 women's doubles title recently.



DESAMITO

YAKULT RACE

Desamito outruns Sabal

BERNARDO DESAMITO EDGED CRESENCIANO Sabal in a race down the wire yesterday to rule the Yakult 10-Miler in an out-and-back course at the Cultural Center of the Philippines grounds in Pasay City.

Desamito and Sabal ran side by side throughout the 16-kilometer distance before the winner outsprinted the 28-year-old Armyman to claim the title and the P7,000 top purse.

"We took turns setting the pace and I was able to beat him only in the last 200 meters," said, in Filipino by the 32-year-old Desamito, who also beat Sabal here last year.

Desamito clocked 53 minutes and four seconds. Sabal, who is slated to defend his Milo Marathon crown on Sunday (Dec. 10) at the Quirino Grandstand, crossed the finish four seconds behind.

Sabal, who owns the 42K course record in the Milo Marathon, said he didn't force himself because of the big race next week.

Completing the top five were Reynaldo delos Reyes (53:39), Gerald Sabal (55:15) and Alquin Bolivar (56:45).

The distaff side was topped by Maricel Maquilan who led all the way and clocked 1:04:43.

Maquilan, who also ruled the dzMM race the previous Sunday, also pocketed P7,000. Placing second and third were Liza Yambao (1:07:50) and Cinderella Agana (1:09:39). They won P3,000 and P2,000, respectively.

Completing the top five were Hazel Madamba (1:12:54) and Genevieve dela Pena (1:18:36).

Yakult executives led by sales and planning manager Michael Ong, plant manager Mitsuo Taniguchi, technical assistant manager Koji Kuroda, special project manager Kenji Egami and media and events coordinator Ronald Nieva handed the prizes and gift packs to the winners at the awarding rites.

NCR XI bags Under-19 football crown

Lanky pair helps Archers sweep elimination round

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH THE LANKY PAIR OF CHOLO VILLANUEVA and Rico Maierhoffer at the helm, the La Salle Green Archers completed a sweep of the elimination round with a 70-63 triumph over the Jose Rizal Bombers to claim a semifinal berth in the FilOil-Flying V Homegrown Invitational Cup yesterday at the PhilSports Arena.

The University of the East Warriors also secured a semifinal slot with a 91-68 drubbing of UAAP champion Santo Tomas Tigers.

Val Acuna and James Martinez combined for 25 points to lead the Warriors to a fourth straight win.

The Archers and the Warriors arranged a Group B semifinal showdown next week, but the two semifinal seats in Group A remained up for grabs.

San Beda's NCAA champion Lions took advantage of the Letran Knights' late-game miscues to forge a come-from-behind 77-76 victory.

But the Lions still dropped out of semifinal contention with the Warriors' earlier triumph.

The scores:

First Game

UE 91—Acuna 13, Martinez 12, Llagas 10, Borboran 10, Thiele 8, Zamar 8, Fampule 6, Bandyling 5, Etrone 5, Lingganay 5, Arellano 4, Reyes 3, Espiritu 2, Canizares 0, Napo 0.

UST 68—Mirza 16, Taylor 9, Ababou 8, Canlas 8, Cruz 6, Badua 5, Scott 5, Cortez 3, Marquez 3, Gile 0, Basa 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 49-40, 68-46, 91-68

Second Game

SAN BEDA 77—Castillo 19, Tirona 15, Camus 10, Antonio 10, Sarangay 10, Gallinato 9, Suguitan 5, Singh 2, Taupa 1, Espinosa 0.

LETRAN 76—Jazul 14, Daa 13, Del Rosario 11, Quinday 10, Guevarra 6, Balneg 5, Foronda 5, Repasar 5, Melagrito 5,



MARK Balneg of Letran (right) battles San Beda's Raymond Maggay for possession.

Dangcal 2, Gutliban 0, Lalorio 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 32-44, 56-63, 77-76

Third Game

LA SALLE 70—Villanueva 16, Maierhoffer 12, Tang 8, Casio 7, Malabes 5, Walsham 4, Cua 4, Barua 4, Co 3, Batricevic 0, Mangahas 0, Atkins 0.

JRU 63—Dedicatoria 14, Wilson 11, Cagoco 9, Sena 8, Tumalak 5, Nocom 4, Echane 3, Pradas 3, Yuzon 2, Bulangis 1, Curanan 1, De Vera 0, Hayes 0, Bartolo 0, Montuano 0.

Quarters: 21-14, 39-34, 50-49, 70-63

MOHAMED IBRAHIM STRUCK twice, including the game-winner in extra time, as National Capital Region outlasted Iloilo, 3-2, yesterday to rule the PFF-National Under-19 football championship at the JF Enriquez Memorial Sports Complex in Zamboanga City.

Ibrahim scored on a header inside the six-yard box for the marginal goal three minutes into the extra session to deny Iloilo the title for the second straight year.

The game-winner was Ibrahim's seventh goal, allowing him to claim the top striker award of the eight-

team tournament. But the Most Valuable Player award went to his teammate, Francis Gustilo, whose influential play at midfield enabled NCR to dictate the tempo throughout the match.

NCR's victory formalized the end of Davao's reign in the competition. The Davaoefios, champions in 2004 and 2005, failed to hurdle the regional qualifying stage this year.

Iloilo, losing finalist last year and third placer two years ago, equalized twice, the last in the 74th minute when Jomar Lestiogo sneaked a low drive past Rufino Samuel Mantos.

Ibrahim, who accounted for two goals in a 7-1 rout of MPL in the semis, opened the scoring in the 18th minute but Peter John Sobrido made it 1-all in the 56th, before NCR striker Gringo Bravo restored the one-goal lead 20 minutes from time.

NCR swept the individual awards with Dennis Mutialbucio emerging as the best defender and Gustilo and Mantos getting top midfielder and goalkeeper honors, respectively.

Earlier, Negros Oriental claimed third place with a 6-2 victory over MPL.

Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas

Real Spicy keeps hot form

By Musong R. Castillo

REAL SPICY WAS JUST TOO GOOD for a compact field last night, romping off with the 7th PhilTobbo Grand Championship Classic in record style over a fine track at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Jockey Jessie B. Guce asked for the juice in the backstretch and the son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, responding in dominating fashion, left the pace-setters eating his dust.

In remaining undefeated for the year, the five-year-old chestnut horse clocked two minutes and nine seconds for the 2,050-meter race, eclipsing the old mark of 2:09.8 jointly held by retired stablemate Wind Blown and Empire King.

Empire King was second, under Lord Santos, about six lengths behind. The reigning Presidential Gold Cup champ had no answer to the burst of speed Real Spicy showed in the backstretch.

"We're preparing him for the Gold Cup," said owner Hermie Esguerra. "My team is doing a good job preparing the horses for the major races and it showed tonight."

Triple Crown leg winner Don Exequiel, another Esguerra entry, bucked a rough start to win the Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo Cup, the 3-year-old championship for Colts, in wire-to-wire style by eight lengths over Kilimanjaro.

Masterful ride

Patti Dilema was a master atop Don Exequiel, who buckled a little leaving the gates after slightly bumping with Bumble Bee.

The handsome son by Bench Mark out of Belle Epoque timed 1:40.6 for the mile with impressive quarter clockings of 25, 24, 24, 27.

The win was worth P300,000 like Jet Sutter's relatively easy romp in the Fillies' championship dubbed Augusto de Jesus Cup.

Manolito F. Daquis booted home Jet Sutter in 1:40 also over 1,600 meters, winning easily over Kaiphia (Val Dilema) and La Perouse.

Mitra Cup

Outstanding pick Landed Visa, meanwhile, ruled the Mitra Cup Juvenile Fillies' championship, breaking out of the gates hard before fending off a spirited challenge by Lancia Stratos in the final 200 meters to win by a nose.

Handled perfectly by Class B rider John B. Cordero, Landed Visa surprisingly set the pace and had just enough left to finish first with a time of 1:36 (19, 24, 24, 28) for 1,500 meters. The win was worth P300,000.

Sweet Luvin was third for P50,000, while Lancia Stratos, who was partnered Sir Luis earlier won the Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts over the highly touted Macho Man, ridden by Patti Dilema.

Borboran grabs PBL weekly honors

HAPEE-PCU'S MARK BORBORAN GOT OFF TO A SLOW START IN A RECENT OUTING IN THE PBL Silver Cup. But it didn't take long for the 6-foot-3 forward to recover his form. Sparking the Teeth Masters' comeback, Borboran fired 11 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter to lift Hapee-PCU to its fifth-straight win, 76-67, against TeleTech last Tuesday. Borboran, a University of the East standout, even spiked his performance with 13 rebounds and one block. "Bawat game, dapat binubuhos namin lahat (Every game, we have to give our best)," said Borboran, who earned the Player of the Week honors. "We just have to stay focused, we cannot be overconfident." With Borboran teaming up with Larry Rodriguez and Jason Castro, Hapee-PCU remained two full games ahead of the Sista Super Sealers, who are running second at 3-2. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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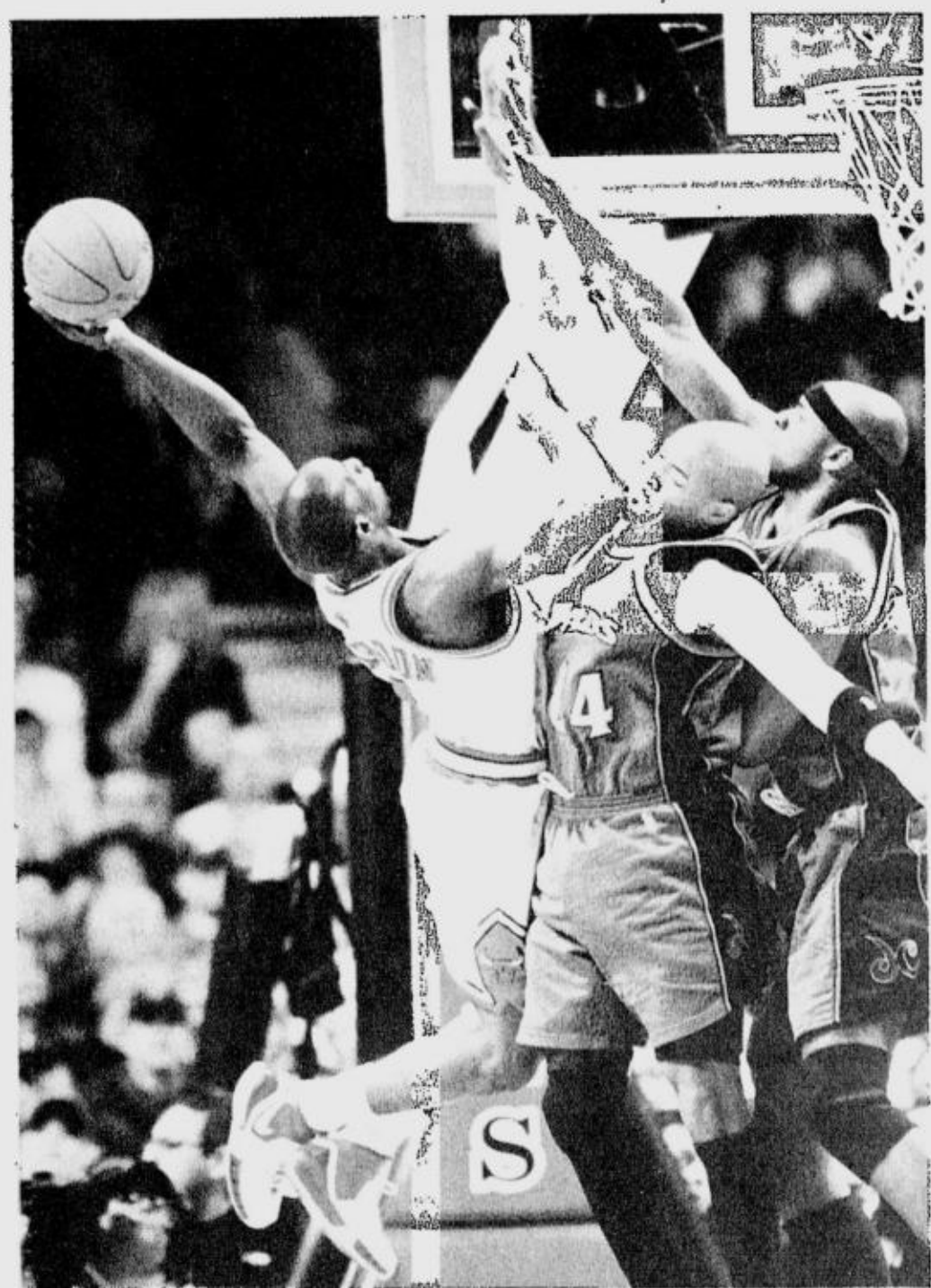
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Heat, Jazz claim last-gasp wins



CHICAGO'S Ben Gordon shoots over Washington's Jarvis Hayes and Brendan Haywood (right). AP

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—JAMES POSEY HIT A THREE-pointer from 26 feet at the buzzer to give the Miami Heat a 98-97 win over the Grizzlies on Saturday night at Memphis, Tennessee.

Trailing 97-95, Miami controlled a jump ball with 1.8 seconds left and called timeout to set up the final play. Jason Williams threw the ball to Posey on the left baseline and he launched a shot over the outstretched arms of Mike Miller for the game-winner.

Dwyane Wade led the Heat with 23 points, including 12 in the fourth.

Antoine Walker scored 18 points, while Williams added 13 points and 14 assists.

Miller had 22 to lead Memphis, while Rudy Gay added 20, including a pair of free throws in the final 22 seconds to give Memphis a 97-95 lead and set the stage for the last-second shot.

Nets 112, 76ers 107

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored a season-high 41 points and Jason Kidd had 13 assists to lead New Jersey.

Kidd also had nine points and nine rebounds to just miss his 78th career triple-double which would have tied him for third place overall with Wilt Chamberlain.

Richard Jefferson added 24 points and Nenad Krstic had 20 as the Nets won their second straight after a six-game losing streak.

Allen Iverson scored 37 points and rookie Rodney Carney added a career-high 20 in his first NBA start as Philadelphia lost its sixth straight road game. Chris Webber returned to the 76ers lineup after missing six games with a back problem and had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Raptors 103, Knicks 100

At New York, T.J. Ford had 20 points and 10 assists, and turned back the Knicks on a number of occasions

down the stretch as the Raptors held on for a victory.

Chris Bosh had 26 points and 13 rebounds for Toronto, which won for the fourth time in five games. But it was Ford's play down that stretch that allowed the Raptors to survive an inspired finish from Eddy Curry and improve to 2-8 on the road.

Spurs 100, Kings 98

At San Antonio, Bruce Bowen scored a season-high 23 points to lead San Antonio.

Bowen hit six three-pointers as the Spurs went 11-of-22 from behind the arc. Tim Duncan added 18 points and 11 rebounds and Tony Parker scored 18 of his 20 points in the first half.

All five of the Kings' starter scored in the double digits led by Kevin Martin with 30 points and John Salmons' season-high 20.

At Houston, Yao Ming scored 24 points and Houston overcame a concussion to Tracy McGrady to beat cold-shooting Cleveland.

McGrady took an inadvertent elbow from Dikembe Mutombo in the first quarter and did not return.

LeBron James scored 21, but was 7-for-22 from the field. Cleveland shot 28 percent (22-for-78) as a team, flirting with its all-time worst shooting performance (23.8 percent), set in 1970.

Bulls 112, Wizards 94

At Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 28 points and Andres Nocioni added 24 to lead Chicago to a victory over Washington, which set a franchise record with its eighth straight road loss to start the season.

Gordon hit 10-of-21 shots and Luol

Deng added 18 points and nine rebounds. Kirk Hinrich had 10 points and nine assists, while Ben Wallace showed no sign of the stiff neck or right hand injury that have bothered him lately. He finished with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Caron Butler had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards.

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur hit a three-pointer with 1.6 seconds left to lift the Jazz.

Ray Allen scored 20 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, including a drive past Andrei Kirilenko for a layup with seven seconds left that gave Seattle a 107-106 lead.

Without calling a timeout, Deron Williams rushed the ball up the court and found Okur open in the right corner. Allen had one last chance but missed a 27-footer as time expired.

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored a season-high 38 points and J.R. Smith hit five three-pointers for Denver.

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal was a game-time decision due to a balky left hamstring, but he started and contributed 20 points and 16 rebounds.

Bucks 115, Warriors 110

At Oakland, California, Mo Williams scored 10 points in the fourth quarter after missing his first 12 shots of the game, and Milwaukee roared from behind for an improbable victory over Golden State.

Charlie Bell fell just short of his career high with 28 points for the Bucks, who ruined Golden State coach Don Nelson's second attempt to become just the second coach in NBA history with 1,200 career victories.

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had a relatively quiet game with 29 points and it was still enough to lead the Lakers over the Clippers.

The Lakers' Lamar Odom had 18 points and eight rebounds before fouling out in the final minute.

Beach volley Learn to fight, coach tells NBA prospect Li

By Teddyvic S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—THE YELLS OF SUPPORT from a modest number of Filipino workers and members of the Philippine delegation in the gallery were all the tall, comely pair of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua needed when fatigue reared its ugly head Saturday night.

Overpowered in the second set by the taller Kazakh pair of Yelena Alenkina and Marina Storzhenko, 11-21, the Filipina-Americans looked to have expended their last reserves of energy.

"We knew that a lot of Filipinos were here and the crowd was extremely helpful," said Ilustre, the 29-year-old stunner from Honolulu. "The crowd was awesome and they gave us confidence and strength in the third set."

Ilustre and Pascua surged back to take the last set for a hard-earned 21-16, 11-21, 17-15 victory that gained them a berth in the last 16 of the women's beach volleyball competitions at the Sport City complex here.

Among the Filipinos who came to cheer for the RP pair, bronze medalists in last year's Manila Southeast Asian Games, were Philippine Sports Commission chair and Chef de Mission William "Butch" Ramirez and sports commissioner Richie Garcia.

"It was a pretty tough game," said the 29-year-old Pascua, who calls California home. "I was very nervous at first because of the people and all the lights around us, which made me confused."

"But the people who came here to cheer for us were just wonderful. They gave us energy."

Pascua and Ilustre were battling the third-ranked Chinese pair of Zhang Xi and Xue Chen in Round 2 last night.

Thai boxer dominates

DOHA—THAILAND'S OLYMPIC LIGHT-WELTER-weight champion Manus Boonjummong fought for the first time in two years on Saturday as he opened his Asian Games campaign in winning style. The 26-year-old beat Mongolian teenager Tuvshinbat Byamba 16-7 but it was a tricky bout made difficult by the slippery surface inside the ring at the Aspire Dome. The roof in the multi-million dollar indoor arena sprang a leak due to the torrential rain which has deluged Qatar for two days.

AFP

DOHA—CHINA'S HEAD COACH JONAS KAZLAUSKAS has told NBA prospect Yi Jianlian he must learn to fight instead of relying on raw talent if he wants to make the grade in the United States.

The Lithuanian was disappointed with Yi's first outing for China at the Asian Games here on Saturday in their 89-79 victory over Kazakhstan.

The 19-year-old, expected to be one of the top prospects selected in next year's NBA Draft, struggled with foul trouble before finishing with 14 points and six rebounds in less than 22 minutes.

"I am not happy with how he played," said Kazlauskas.

"He is like a good boy. Everybody can push him, can kick out him from the zone and he seems happy with everything going on with him."

"At one time he has to understand that's not good enough to be talented, he has to fight for every ball, every rebound, everything."

Yi was not allowed to attend the 2006 NBA draft due to a ban against any more Chinese national team players joining ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where China hopes to medal.

But several disappointing games at this year's World Championships appeared to have changed the view of CBA officials, who now believe China will be stronger in 2008 if more players have NBA experience.

ers have NBA experience.

Kazlauskas also had stern words for former Miami Heat star Wang Zhizhi, despite the seven-foot center leading China with 22 points and five rebounds.

Without Yao Ming, who has commitments to the Houston Rockets, Kazlauskas is struggling to build a side that can be competitive and bemoaned the fact that he doesn't have more talent to call on.

"Some of our players need to change their mentality, they need to make sure they are playing for the team and not the individual."

In other Group F action, Japan, who like China played at the world championships earlier this year, prevailed against Taiwan 85-75 in an engrossing encounter.

Taiwan led 42-41 after the second quarter but Japan bounced back with their aging US-born center Eric McArthur, 38, influential with 12 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Guard Shinsuke Kashiwagi top scored with 16 points.

"It is a good start, this is the first game for Japan and it was very important. It has given us confidence," said Kashiwagi.

In the day's other match, Lebanon scored an impressive 106-70 win over Uzbekistan, signalling their intent on challenging China, South Korea and Qatar for gold.

AFP



CHINA'S Liu Wei (left) drives past Kazakhstan's Mikhail Yevstigneyev. AFP

Weightlifter sets new world record at Asiad

DOHA, QATAR—HONG KONG, KUWAIT and Kazakhstan picked up their first gold medals at the Asian Games on Sunday while China continued its early domination—both in gold medals and in setting world records.

Chinese lifter Chen Yanqing set world marks for the snatch, clean-and-jerk and total weight in the women's 58-kilogram class. China's three other golds included a world record-equaling performance in the women's 10-meter air pistol team event, adding to its impressive first-day performance of 16 golds in 20 medal events Saturday.

Wong Kam Po, a 33-year-old cyclist who won the Asian Games road race at Bangkok eight years ago, repeated that

feat Sunday in a race shortened due to high winds. The veteran Wong finished in 3 hours, 45 minutes and two seconds, just ahead of Iran's Mehdi Sohrabi and South Korea's Park Sung-baek.

Abdulrahman Al Raihan, Khaled Al-mudhaf and Naser Meqlad led Kuwait to its first gold medal in the men's team trap in shooting. Meqlad later won Kuwait's second of the day with an individual win in the trap.

"It is too windy and it does affect me a bit, but everyone is competing under these conditions," said Meqlad.

Kazakhstan won its first gold when Sergey Belyayev, Vitaliy Dovgun and Jurij Melsitov combined to win the men's 50-meter rifle prone team event.

China, the 2008 Olympic hosts, won 150 golds at the last Asian Games in Busan, South Korea and appears destined to top that figure by the time these games end Dec. 15.

The gusty winds that buffeted the shooters forced organizers to shorten the length of the men's cycling road race at the Corniche in downtown Doha.

The officials determined that the winds, which were gusting up to 65 kph (40 mph), could have forced the cyclists to finish after nightfall, so they cut the length from its scheduled 200 kilometers (123 miles) to 156 kilometers (96 miles).

"The predicted high winds would have had the cyclists finishing in the dark, so we have reduced the race from four laps to

three for the safety of the riders," said Graham Sycamore, the cycling competitions manager.

The high winds and choppy water at West Bay Lagoon tested rowers on the first day of competition but failed to slow China's impressive performance—the favorites won all four of their heats.

The weather has been an issue thus far at the games, with rain affecting the opening ceremonies Friday and causing some water damage at venues Saturday.

Elsewhere Sunday, three players had three RBIs each and Jang Won-sam allowed one hit in five innings as defending baseball champion South Korea won for the first time at Doha, a 12-2 decision over winless Philippines.

AP



JUAN CARLOS NAVARRO



FC BARCELONA



EUROLEAGUE BASKETBALL

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SAFIN: Still uncomfortable AP

Safin tows Russia to 2-1 Davis Cup lead

MOSCOW—THIS TIME HE LIKED THE COURT.

Russia's Marat Safin found his footing Saturday on a surface that had him seething less than 24 hours earlier. He paired with Dmitry Tursunov to beat Argentina's David Nalbandian and Agustín Calleri, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, in the Davis Cup final.

Russia leads 2-1 and is one match away from its second Davis Cup title.

The comfortable win came a day after Nalbandian leveled the five-match final by beating Safin, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, which followed Nikolay Davydenko's 6-1, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Juan Ignacio Chela.

Safin had blamed the synthetic indoor carpet for his singles loss, saying the surface suited Nalbandian "perfectly." The Russian squad had trained on the carpet when it was placed on top of a wood parquet but in competition, Safin complained, the carpet was on cement.

After Saturday's win, Safin hadn't completely forgiven the court.

"The surface was still uncomfortable for me," Safin said, while adding that doubles was easier with each player responsible for "half the court."

The reverse singles Sunday at Moscow's Olympic Stadium will now decide the out-

come of this final with Argentina trying for its first Davis Cup title.

The Argentine fans—including soccer great Diego Maradona—were subdued as Tursunov and Safin overpowered their opponents, conceding only one point in their first-set service games. Nalbandian and Calleri never had a break point in the match.

Safin wasn't even scheduled to play Saturday—he replaced Mikhail Youzhny in an eleventh-hour change by Russia coach Shamil Tarpišchev. But the two-time major champion said after the match that he had known "for sure" he would play in the doubles.

"I think it was the best decision, and it worked," Safin said of his pairing with Tursunov, who kept up his part of the bargain by firing eight of Russia's 11 aces in a match that lasted just 1 hour, 38 minutes.

If Nalbandian can rebound and even the tie for the second time by beating Davydenko in the first match Sunday, it could be up to Safin to beat Chela and bring Russia its second Davis Cup title—and its first at home, after beating France in 2002 in Paris.

The Soviet Union also beat Argentina in 1985 in Buenos Aires. AP

Cotto nails WBA title; Margarito triumphs

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—ANTONIO Margarito might finally get the opponent he wants, even if his name isn't Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Margarito and Miguel Cotto fought to convincing victories Saturday night at Boardwalk Hall, setting up a potential bout between welter-weight titleholders.

One of the first sentences out of Margarito's mouth after he defended his WBO title with a 12-round decision over Joshua Clottey was, "I want to fight the winner of the next fight."

That would be Cotto, who administered a relentless beating to Carlos Quintana to win the vacant WBA belt. The fight was stopped before Quintana could come out for the sixth round.

Cotto's win on Saturday was reminiscent of his last fight, a 12-round decision over Paul Malignaggi in June in which he fractured Malignaggi's cheekbone.

This time, Cotto (28-0, 23 KOs) came out from the opening bell and mercilessly pounded Quintana, who entered the fight 23-0 with 18 knockouts.

"He was too fast," Quintana said. "I was surprised at his hand speed."

The fight was the first for Cotto at 147 pounds after six successful title defenses of the junior welterweight title he won in 2004. The WBA title was vacated when Ricky Hatton moved up a weight class.

Cotto handled the move up in weight flawlessly. "I felt very strong at this weight," Cotto said. "I felt I could do anything I wanted to do."

Quintana, bleeding from his mouth and from under his left eye after absorbing a sustained attack by Cotto, was knocked down twice in the fifth round and staggered back to his corner.

"I could tell from the look in his eye that he didn't want to go," said Dr. Dominick Coletta, the ringside physician.

Margarito had sought a fight with Mayweather only to be rebuffed in favor of Carlos Baldomir. AP

By Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

TAMPA, FLORIDA—TOP Filipino prospect Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista kept his unbeaten record with a smashing fourth-round technical knockout victory over Brazilian Giovanni Andrade yesterday in their scheduled 12-round fight at the St. Pete Times Forum here.

Taking the initiative in front of some 13,825 spectators, Bautista forced a battered Andrade to give up at the end of the third round, prompting referee Jorge Alonso to wave off the fight.

Bautista, the former WBO Asian Pacific bantamweight champion, swept all three rounds in the scorecards of the three judges before the stoppage.

The Candijay, Bohol, native pressed the action right at the get-go, chasing Andrade around for most of the round as the Brazilian showboated while riding on his bicycle.

Bautista continued his onslaught in the second round, although he got tagged by a right which landed on his right forehead, forcing the Filipino to backpedal. Bautista recovered to still win the round.

Andrade started to tire in the third, and was reduced to clowning around as the very well-conditioned Bautista continued chasing him with hard body attacks.

"He hit me with too many body shots, and every time they landed, I felt like I was being stabbed," said Andrade in a post-fight interview at ringside.

The bout was an undercard to the



BOOM Boom Bautista (left) staggers Giovanni Andrade with a solid left.

REUTERS

Winky Wright-Ike Quartey battle, and was aired on national television with millions watching on Solar Sports, RPN and closed-circuit venues. Wright won the main event by decision.

With the win, Bautista improved his unblemished slate to 21 wins and 16 KOs, and solidified his position as next in line to challenge WBO super bantamweight king Daniel Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

Top Filipino promoter Sammy Gello-

ani is currently working on a boxing "World Cup" to take place in the Philippines in February, pitting Mexican world champions against Filipino challengers.

"I was also hurt in the second round when Andrade caught me with a good shot," Bautista said after the fight. "But I recovered amazingly fast, thanks to my conditioning."

The young fighter then went on to thank his manager, Antonio L. Aldeguer,

and promoter Oscar De la Hoya for their support, as well as his parents and Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Neri Lim.

After a short meeting among Golden Boy Promotions fighters and staff presided by De La Hoya, the post-fight press conference was held on the same ring where the fights were held.

Bautista is set to fly back to Los Angeles today, then proceed to Manila tomorrow. He is expected to be home on Dec. 6.

Wright proves critics wrong, beats Quartey

TAMPA, FLORIDA—A DETERMINED Winky Wright felt he had something to prove.

"They say I can't punch," the former world junior middleweight champion said Saturday night. "I wanted to show that I can."

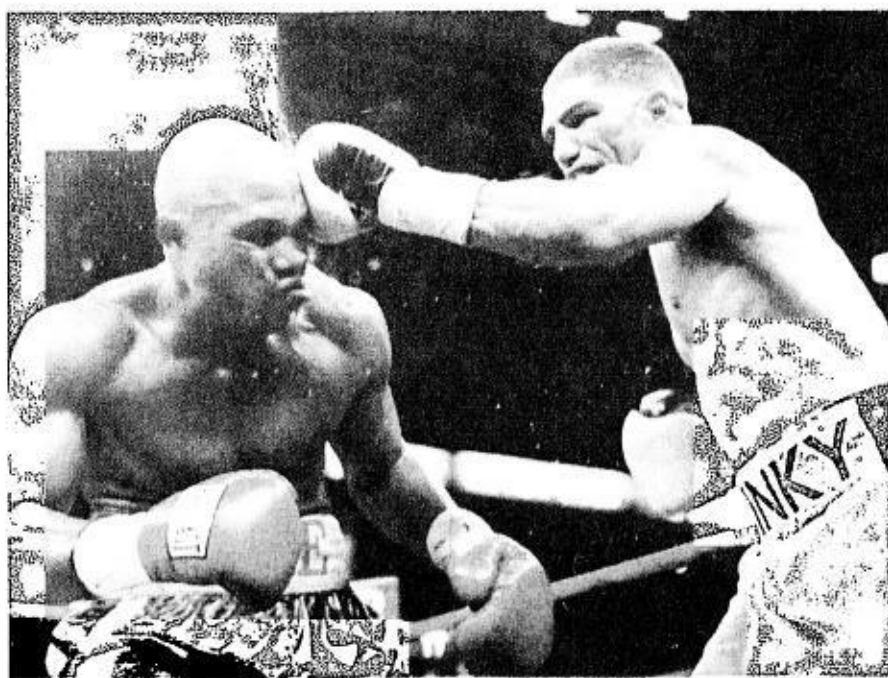
One of the best defensive fighters in the business, Wright went on the offensive and knocked down Ike Quartey late in the second round and won the 12-round middleweight fight between two old friends with a unanimous decision.

Wright threw 1,011 punches to Quartey's 642. He was still going strong in the last round, but couldn't finish off his game opponent.

"I dropped him. I hurt him. But he kept coming back," Wright said. "I wish I could have knocked him out, but Ike's a durable guy."

Wright landed a right to the head to drop Quartey with about 20 seconds left in the second round. He rocked his opponent again—drawing chants of "Winky! Winky!"—with a hard left to the head midway through the eighth.

The 35-year-old Wright, a St. Petersburg resident fighting on home turf for the first time since 1992, improved to 51-3-1 with 25 knockouts. Quartey (37-4-1) fell to 3-2 since resuming his career in 2005 after taking more than four years off following a pair of disappointing losses in 1999 and 2000.



CAN'T punch, you say? Winky Wright (right) shows he can by connecting to the head of Ike Quartey.

AFP

Buddies since the early 1990s when they were young boxers competing in France, Wright and the 37-year-old Quartey had no problem putting their friendship on hold for a night in hopes of positioning themselves for a big-money fight in the near future.

The judges scored the fight, which

drew an announced crowd of 13,825 to the St. Pete Times Forum for Wright's homecoming, 117-110, 117-110 and 117-109.

"He's a good fighter. It was tougher than I thought fighting a southpaw," Quartey said. "He didn't hurt me. I thought I did enough to win the fight."

Both fighters were coming off controversial decisions that left them feeling slighted in their most recent fights.

Wright, who landed 269 punches to Quartey's 174, felt he won a middleweight title bout that ended in a draw with champion Jermain Taylor in June and has been unable to arrange a rematch.

Quartey, who quit boxing six years ago after losing consecutive fights to Oscar De La Hoya and Fernando Vargas, dropped a close 10-round decision to Vernon Forrest in August—his first loss since resuming his career last year.

The friends both were hoping to position themselves for more lucrative paydays down the road.

In addition to wanting a rematch with Taylor, Wright also would like an opportunity to face De La Hoya, who was a co-promoter of Saturday night's card. Quartey also hopes a fight with De La Hoya is in his future.

On the undercard, former super middleweight champion Jeff Lacy won a 10-round majority decision over Ukrainian Vitali Tsypko.

Lacy rebounded from losing his IBF title to Welshman Joe Calzaghe in March, holding on after dominating the early rounds. One judge scored the fight a draw and the other two had it 96-94 for Lacy.

Two of the three judges had Tsypko winning the last four rounds. AP

Lacy fails to impress

TAMPA—HE MAY NEVER FORGET THE worst night of his career, the most devastating loss he has ever suffered, and may never forgive those who wouldn't stop talking about it.

But last March didn't seem so far away Saturday night.

Jeff Lacy made his long-awaited return to the ring Saturday night, and one thing was clear: On the road all the way back there still are some bumps.

Looking better than he did in his last fight but still not as explosive as he did before it, Lacy started strong and battled to a majority decision over Vitali Tsypko.

One judge scored it 95-95, while two others agreed on a 96-94 score.

Lacy (22-1, 17 KOs) is hoping the victory puts him back in the super middleweight title picture.

"Nothing was going to beat me tonight," Lacy said.

The decision drew a smattering of boos.

"I thought I won the fight," Tsypko said. "Perhaps I didn't do my best because I only got this on short notice."

It wasn't the kind of comeback Lacy probably envisioned, especially after his victory here over Robin Reid last year that was received so favorably.

It was Lacy's first fight since Joe Calzaghe handled him in Manchester and delivered one of the most crushing and complete defeats of a standing champion in boxing history. *NYT News Service*



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BAGUIO CITY—THE 57TH FIL-AM INVITATIONAL regular golf championship reels off today with teams in flights B and C taking the first crack at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay Golf Club.

Competition starts simultaneously at 6 a.m. with 17 teams playing in the Fil division flight B and 18 in flight C and 16 and 18 in the Am division flights B and C, respectively.

The Fil and Am regular championships and flights A start their quest for team and individual honors beginning Wednesday.

Nike Golf Pacsports is the heavy favorite to sweep the Fil and Am championship division titles again.

Competitions in the Fil and Am flights D, E and F were held during the seniors championship last week.

Tournament committee co-chairs Anthony de Leon, the Baguio Country Club general manager, and Jeric Hechnova, the John Hay general manager, welcomed the more than 822 players from 60 teams competing in the popular tournament.

Expected to challenge Nike Golf Pacsports are Manila Southwoods, Del Monte, Mizuno and Eastridge Golf and Country Club.

A team composed of young South Korean players will make its debut on Wednesday in the Am championship division. The World Professional Golf Teachers Association where they honed their game is its sponsor.

The hitting of the traditional ceremonial drives yesterday at both clubs officially launched the event. Doing the honors were Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, lawyer Luis Sison and Nanette Filler both of the Country Club and Nelson Eslao of John Hay.



BERNIS

As part of the ceremonies, the room Capitol Hills Golf Club player Victor "Eton" Roman used during the seniors tournament at Baguio Country Club was blessed.

Roman, the younger brother of regular Fil-Am players Boy and Ding, died of myocardial infarction and respiratory arrest at the Baguio Medical Center during the seniors competition last week.

Camp John Hay capped yesterday's activities by hosting the traditional Caribbean Night party the CJH Suites for all participants and other guests.

The Nike bets playing in the Fil Division are former amateur champ Jun Bernis, former national team bet Boyet Zaragoza, Jonel Ababa, Mark Fernando and Joseph Labajo.

Playing in the Am Division championship are former national standout Dave Hernandez, Mario Labajo, Rufino Bayron, Paul Echavez, Jessie Balasabas and Sonny Boy Gallon.

Manila Southwoods has Tonton Asistio Jr., Anthony Fernando, Erwin Vinluan, Jong Laput in the Fil Division and Miko Alejandro and Chuchu Martinez, Justine Tambunting, Montito Garcia, Jun Jun Plana, Gino Bunyi and Thirly Escano in the Am Division.

Mizuno is fielding Raffy Garcia, King Stehmeier, Raymund Sangil, Chris de los Santos and Omar Dungca in the Fil Division and Gerald Katigbak, Mike Besa, Bones Floro, Lovell Gopez and Paolo Cagalningan in the Am Division.

Guialon, Legaspi top Aspac golf qualifiers

LITTLE-KNOWN ZANNY BOY GUIALON and veteran internationalist Maan Legaspi topped the recent qualifying staged by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines for the Asia-Pacific Junior Masters next month in Kolkata, India.

Guialon scored 72, 68 and 69 for a 209 aggregate while Legaspi carded 78, 75 and 77 for a 230 total at the Aguinaldo Golf Club to lead the seven players (four boys and three girls) who will represent the Philippines in the Asia-Pacific tourney on Jan. 23-26.

The three other boys qualifiers were Remo Fuego (71-71-71-213), Jobim Carlos (73-73-74-220) and Lawrence Celestino (81-75-75-227).

The team will also include Sunshine Baraquel (77-80-75-232) and Camille Redillas (87-77-83-247).

Brent Sumampog, JR Gonzales, Christopher

dela Cruz and Jonar Austria took fourth to seventh places to make the team for the World Junior Team Championships on Jan. 21-26 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

The qualifying at the Aguinaldo, Intramuros and Navy courses was held in coordination with the National Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Leisure & Allied Industries Phils. (Time Zone card).

Division winners were Koo Kyo Won in Class C, AR Ramos and Rin Kim in Class D, Lanz Uy and Mia Legaspi in Class E and Angelo Ballesteros and Ashia Nocom in Class F.

Meanwhile, the 21st anniversary of Jungolf will be played on Dec. 22 at the Couples course of Riviera. Entry fee is P500 for present jungolfers and P1,000 for alumni. Deadline for registration is on Dec. 15.

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IN THIS ISSUE

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RP likely to miss '07 growth target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO MISS THE OFFICIAL growth target of 5.7 to 6.5 percent next year, owing largely to the slowdown in the economies of the United States and Japan, the country's biggest export markets.

This was the projection made by the Congressional Planning and Budget Office (CPBO), the economic think tank of the legislature. The CPBO's economic growth forecast

for next year ranges from 4.7 percent to 5.3 percent.

CPBO said in its latest paper on the Philippine economy that lower demand from the United States and Japan would

RP LIKELY/ B2

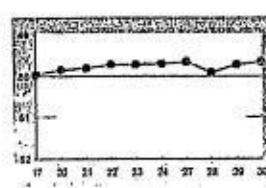
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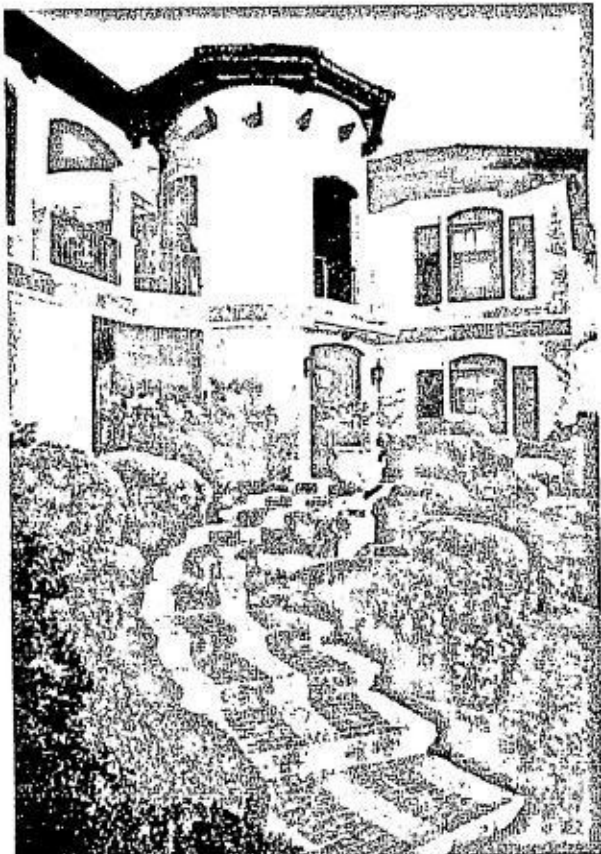
Market still has room to grow

ANALYSTS AND FUND MANAGERS appear to have opposing views as to how the market will turn out this week.

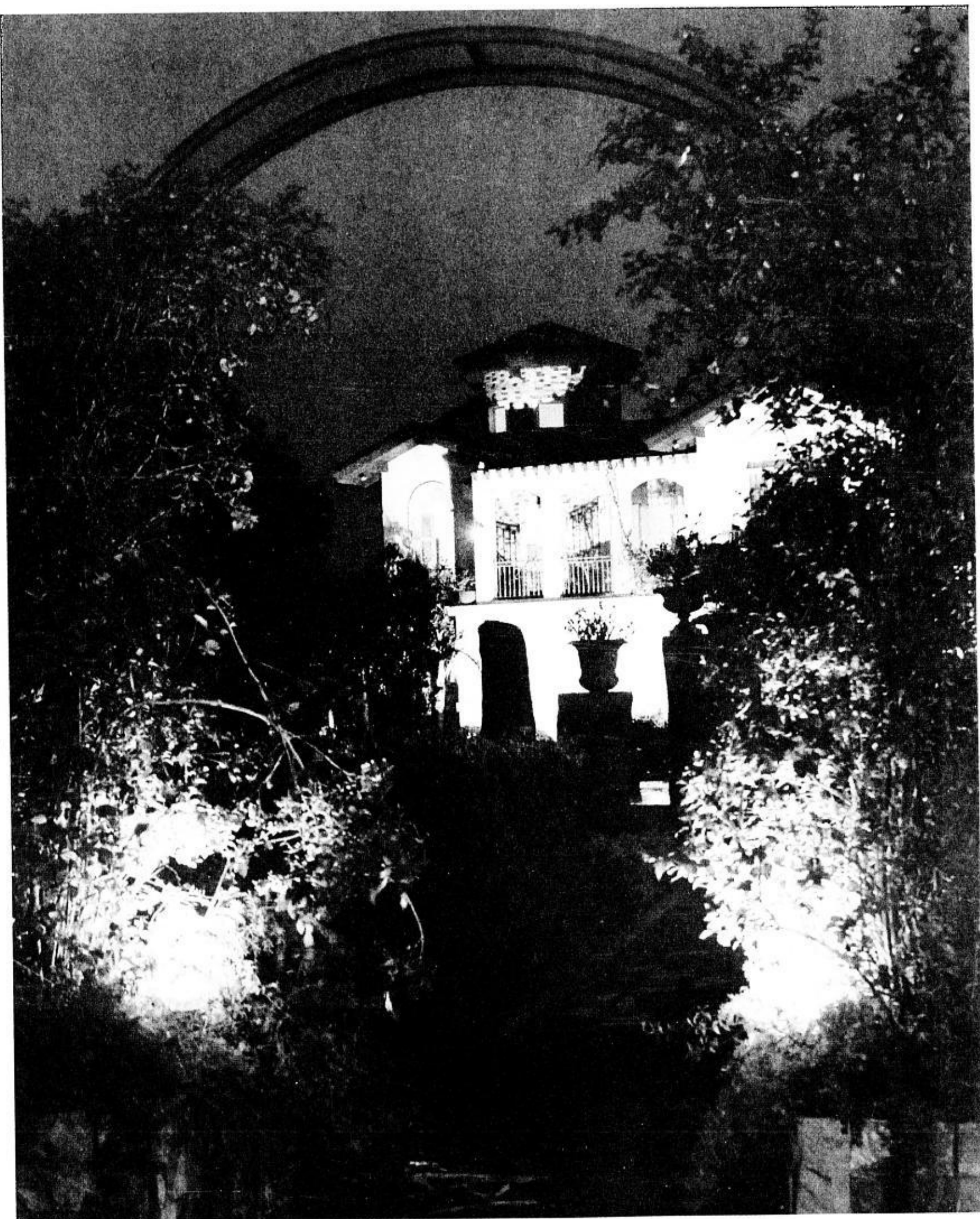
Fitzgerald Aclan, head of re-MARKET/ B2

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PBCom stockholder cries no deal

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE LUY FAMILY, THE SINGLE biggest stockholder of Philippine Bank of Communications, has rejected the planned takeover of the medium-sized bank by Philtrust Bank, calling instead for a joint sale to the best bidder.

Aside from Philtrust, there are at

least five other groups bidding for PBCom: Security Banking Corp.; the Aboitiz group's Union Bank of the Philippines; tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, who owns Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank; the SM group, which controls Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Equitable PCI Bank and China Bank; and Export Industry Bank stockholder Jaime

Gonzales, banking sources said. "For as long as we don't participate, there's no deal," said PBCom director Edwin Luy, whose family owns a 37-percent stake in the bank.

Under corporate laws, a 67-percent voting block is needed to effect a merger between two firms. Two other groups, the Nubla and Chung, earlier entered into a deal to sell their combined 58.26-percent stake to Philtrust, controlled by Chinese-Filipino tycoon Emilio Yap for about P3 billion or about P30 per share.

"[The Nubla and Chung groups] kind of acted in bad faith, running behind our backs, cutting a deal like that without including us or even informing us, and that's while [they're] fully aware of the agree-

ment with PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.)," Luy told the INQUIRER after the PBCom board meeting last Thursday. "Nothing will be resolved within the year, because PDIC can't force us to sell."

In 2004 when the state-owned PDIC extended a P7.6-billion financial package to PBCom, the shareholders were obliged to divest absolute control of the bank, or at least 67 percent, in favor of a new investor within five years.

At that time, the three major stockholders also entered into an agreement to sell as a block.

"We don't feel right with what happened," Luy said. "It's against the original agreement we had in

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Imports from China up 22%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRELIMINARY FIGURES ON MERCHANDISE trade between the Philippines and China showed that as of July, imports from the mainland increased significantly while exports to the giant economy dropped slightly under the Early Harvest trading scheme started this year.

Data from the Bureau of International Trade Relations, a part of the Department of Trade and Industry, showed that imports from China grew 22 percent as of July to \$2.16 billion, from year-ago's \$1.64 billion.

Philippine exports to China for the seven-month period reached \$2.35 billion, 1.6 percent lower than \$2.39 billion last year.

The records cover 2,070 tariff lines of Chinese imports, mostly agricultural products but also include industrial goods such as electronics, machinery, hardware and consumer items.

The figures also cover 312 tariff lines of Philippine exports-agricultural products, minerals, garments, constructions supplies and consumer items.

Still, trade officials said the figures could not yet indicate a trend that could be attributed to the EHP with China, saying the numbers did not take into account the effects of seasonal trading.

In April 2005, the Philippines agreed to enter into an EHP with China through a framework agreement on an Association of Southeast Asian Nations-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, which paves the way for the realization of an Asean-China Free Trade Area by 2010.

The EHP gives Asean members an advance low-tariff entry before the free trade agreement takes effect on condition that Asean markets are opened to Chinese products.

Implemented starting Jan. 1, the Philippine-China EHP covers 209 tariff lines that include plant, animal and marine products.. The Philippines was the last of the 10 Asean members to enter China's EHP.

The others have done so as early as 2004 and have cut tariffs on covered products to between 2 percent and 15 percent and agreed to remove the same tariffs in 2006.

STABLE TO POSITIVE

Credit rating upgrade seen

By Doris C. Dumlaog

MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICE MAY further raise its credit rating outlook on the Philippines from "stable" to "positive" on improved fiscal management, but only after the local elections next year, according to Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Among the three most influential global debt watchdogs, Moody's currently has the lowest sovereign rating on the Philippines at four notches below investment grade (B1) versus Standard & Poor's three notches and Fitch Ratings' two notches below investment grade.

BDO chief market strategist Jonathan Ravelas said fiscal improvements would likely solidify in 2007 but noted that the government was

facing spending pressures and political risks in line with the upcoming May 2007 elections.

"Any upgrade will most likely be after the elections," Ravelas said during last week's presentation of BDO's forecasts for 2007.

A "positive" outlook means that within 12-24 months, there is a chance of an actual upgrade in sovereign credit rating, defined as an opinion on the ability and willingness of a government to meet its debt obligations in full and on time.

Moody's improved its outlook on the Philippines to "stable" from "negative" last October.

Ravelas said the country was benefiting from higher revenues and lower expenses as well as declining risk premiums.

He projected that the Philippines would post a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.5 percent this year and 5.75-6 percent next year.

GDP, the most important economic indicator monitored by the financial markets, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy.

"The correction in global oil prices and the appreciating peso provided a boost to the local economy," Ravelas said.

He said the stronger peso would likely have little negative effect on the growth, but it could dampen exports and personal consumption, especially since local consumption is partly fueled by remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

as long as 10 years payment term JOINT PROPERTY AUCTION as much as 25% discount on lots PNB ALLIED BANK

DECEMBER 9, 2006 • SATURDAY • 9:00 AM • 3rd Floor TCIP/BANCOM Room, Asian Institute of Management, Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

MANILA ITEM 01 - Condominium Unit Floor Area: 157.94 sqm. 4th Floor, Unit 4-B, Sta. Elena Condo, Sta. Elena St. Bonifacio Market Value: 4,400,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,600,000.00 MARINA ITEM 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 398.00 sqm. Floor Area: 50.00 sqm. 1581 Rolling Hills Dr., Monte Vista Subd. Market Value: 985,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 785,000.00 MARINA ITEM 020 - Residential / Comm'l Lot Lot Area: 293.00 sqm. Floor Area: 160.20 sqm. Lot 118 Block 49-C-3-A-3-C-3-A, Bonifacio Avenue Corner Road Lot 91, Bonifacio Subd. Market Value: 1,182,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,195,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 294.00 sqm. Floor Area: 116.00 sqm. Lot 31, Bk 10, 31 R. Diaz St., Merville Subd., Dampalit Market Value: 1,182,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,195,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 500.00 sqm. Floor Area: 30.00 sqm. Lot 42-A, 43B Pasado Road Brgy. Pasado, Marikina, Metro Manila Market Value: 1,493,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,195,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 287.00 sqm. Floor Area: 30.00 sqm. Lot 8 Bk 9, Gujo Street, Silangan Subdivision, Liloa Market Value: 785,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 707,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Floor Area: 166.00 sqm. 2889 Camarin Rd., Camarin Market Value: 2,654,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,568,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 120.00 sqm. Floor Area: 55.00 sqm. Lot 17-B Bk 354 112 Biniguan St. San Jose Market Value: 1,819,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,536,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 63.00 sqm. Floor Area: 52.00 sqm. 17810 Santos St., Camella Townhomes, Talon 3 Market Value: 1,040,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 832,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 803.00 sqm. Floor Area: 405.00 sqm. Lot 11 Bk 1, J. Recaste St., BF Resort Vill. Market Value: 9,837,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 6,912,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 360.00 sqm. Floor Area: 240.00 sqm. Lot 45, Bk 10, No. 10-4 Joy St., Hapayale Subd., Talon Market Value: 3,969,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,176,000.00 MAVABON ITEM 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 38.00 sqm. Floor Area: 54.00 sqm. Lot 2-A-2-C-3-D, Road Lot 2-A-2-C-3-G (Purok), Christine Camp Fener Compound, Interior Alabang-Zapote, Talon 1 Market Value: 421,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 357,850.00 MAVABON ITEM 015 - Residential Lot & Bldg. Lot Area: 311.00 sqm. Floor Area: 336.28 sqm. Lot 3 No. 52 Gen Road, Pilar Village Market Value: 4,950,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 4,050,000.00 MAKATI ITEM 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 63.85 sqm. Unit 408 Damara Condominium Metro-politan Ave. Molo Market Value: 1,424,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,211,000.00 MAKATI ITEM 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 111.00 sqm. Unit 202 Parking Bldg B-1516 Jackson Bldg., Pasay Rd. Market Value: 4,148,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,940,000.00	MARINA ITEM 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 398.00 sqm. Floor Area: 50.00 sqm. 1581 Rolling Hills Dr., Monte Vista Subd. Market Value: 985,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 785,000.00 MARINA ITEM 020 - Residential / Comm'l Lot Lot Area: 293.00 sqm. Floor Area: 160.20 sqm. Lot 118 Block 49-C-3-A-3-C-3-A, Bonifacio Avenue Corner Road Lot 91, Bonifacio Subd. Market Value: 1,182,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,195,000.00 MARINA ITEM 22 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 249.00 sqm. Lot 20, Bk 3, Garcia St. Monte Vite De Monard Market Value: 946,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 899,000.00 MARINA ITEM 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 157.02 sqm. Unit 802 Chateau De Baie Condo Rorara Blvd. Market Value: 5,810,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 4,939,000.00 MARINA ITEM 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 288.00 sqm. Floor Area: 192.00 sqm. Lot 4554-G & 4554-H #2198 P. Burgos St., Sta. Clara Market Value: 5,665,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 5,427,000.00 MARINA ITEM 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 110.64 sqm. Unit 102 Upper Ground Flr., Edificio Cordova Las Villas De Valle Verde, Kaimosi St., Valle Verde 2, Brgy. Upland Market Value: 3,319,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,821,150.00 MARINA ITEM 028 - Residential Condo Unit w/ Parking Area Floor Area: 210.14 sqm. Unit 405 Parc Chateau Condomini-umony Condo Sapphire And Gam-troeds, Ortopes Complex Market Value: 9,350,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 8,075,000.00 MARINA ITEM 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 481.00 sqm. Floor Area: 200.00 sqm. 11-B Elipio St., San Francisco Del Monte Market Value: 6,679,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 6,012,000.00 MARINA ITEM 30 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 500.00 sqm. Lot 801-A-A-5-A Interior Of B 17 Gloria II Tandang Sora Market Value: 1,100,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 715,000.00 MARINA ITEM 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 526.40 sqm. Floor Area: 384.00 sqm. Lot 25 & 27 Bk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6, Quason City Market Value: 6,210,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 4,658,000.00 MARINA ITEM 32 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Gilmeri Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District Market Value: 6,879,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,947,000.00 BATAVIA ITEM 33 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 540.00 sqm. 11181 & 1285 Kasyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit Market Value: 1,620,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,134,000.00 BATAVIA ITEM 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 325.00 sqm. Floor Area: 330.00 sqm. Unit 202 Parking Bldg B-1516 Jackson Bldg., Pasay Rd. Market Value: 3,679,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,495,000.00	MARINA ITEM 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 195.00 sqm. Floor Area: 195.00 sqm. Lot 4 Bk 7 78B Promenade Lane, Blon-dridge B Subd. Market Value: 9,373,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 8,004,350.00 MARINA ITEM 37 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 356.00 sqm. Lot 13-A, Bk 19 #3 Princess Udaya St., Doña Rosalia Subd., Bayan, Nova-las Market Value: 1,248,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,059,400.00 MARINA ITEM 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 145.00 sqm. Lot 208 #41 Pajo St., Proj. 2 L30, Lch 208 #41 Pajo St., Proj. 2 Market Value: 6,600,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 5,400,000.00 MARINA ITEM 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 38.50 sqm. Floor Area: 44.00 sqm. Lot 19, Bk 3 Philips North Point, Brgy. San Bartolome Market Value: 695,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 695,000.00 MARINA ITEM 043 - Condominium Unit Floor Area: 125.95 sqm. Unit D - Ground Floor, Tempus Place Condominium I, Makatung Road, Diliman Market Value: 4,198,350.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,400,650.00 MARINA ITEM 044 - Condominium Unit Floor Area: 60.52 sqm. Unit A - 2nd Floor, Tempus Place Con-dominium II, Makatung Road, Diliman Market Value: 1,997,100.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,634,040.00 MARINA ITEM 045 - Condominium Unit Floor Area: 102.01 sqm. Unit D - 8th Floor, Tempus Place Con-dominium II, Makatung Road, Diliman Market Value: 3,366,330.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,754,770.00 MARINA ITEM 046 - Condominium Unit Floor Area: 128.85 sqm. Unit B - Penthouse, Tempus Place Condominium II, Makatung Road, Diliman Market Value: 4,186,050.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,474,500.00 MARINA ITEM 047 - Residential Lot & Bldg Lot Area: 2,000.00 sqm. Pasasote Street, Barangay Nagkaisang Nayan, Novales Market Value: 8,800,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 7,700,000.00 MARINA ITEM 048 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 238.00 sqm. 5 & 37 Bk 37 & 38, D. Gino & Thade-istreet, Francisco, San Bartolome Novales Market Value: 3,300,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,550,000.00 MARINA ITEM 49 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 745.00 sqm. Lot 16 Bk 1, Forest Hills Estate Subd., Brgy. San Juan, Antipolo City Market Value: 1,192,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,133,000.00 MARINA ITEM 50 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 500.00 sqm. Lot 801-A-A-5-A Interior Of B 17 Gloria II Tandang Sora Market Value: 1,100,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 715,000.00 MARINA ITEM 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 145.00 sqm. Lot 8 Bk 1 #1 (North) Alley 1, Dona Florencia Subd., West Crame Market Value: 1,239,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,040,000.00 MARINA ITEM 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 443.00 sqm. Floor Area: 180.00 sqm. Lot 7 Bk 101, Ubino St., Kabayanan Market Value: 6,879,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 5,160,000.00 SAN JOSE ITEM 053 - Road/Industrial Lot Lot Area: 10,890.00 sqm. Lot 2268 Banno Dagupan Market Value: 4,400,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,400,000.00 SAN JOSE ITEM 054 - Residential Lot Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 7-C-5 Banno Dagupan Market Value: 1,841,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,748,000.00 SAN JOSE ITEM 055 - Residential Lot Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 3-C-2 Banno Dagupan Market Value: 1,650,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,475,000.00 SAN JOSE ITEM 056 - Vacant Agricultural Lot Lot Area: 3,941.00 sqm. Lot 2607-B Banno Dagupan Market Value: 1,300,530.00 Minimum Bid Price: 945,840.00 BULACAN ITEM 057 - Industrial / Residential w/ Warehouse Lot Area: 1,579.00 sqm. Floor Area: 917.47 sqm. Lot 591-B Along Municipal Road, Banno Dagupan Market Value: 6,600,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 5,400,000.00 BULACAN ITEM 058 - Industrial Lot with Warehouse Lot Area: 860.00 sqm. Floor Area: 826.00 sqm. Lot 2-G-18 Along Industrial Subd., Bantolaba Market Value: 1,150,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00 BULACAN ITEM 059 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 342.00 sqm. Floor Area: 168.00 sqm. Lot 6 Block 3 Doña Josefa Village Alibon Market Value: 2,700,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,250,000.00 BULACAN ITEM 060 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 765.00 sqm. Lot 4381-B Along Daungan Road, Mahacan (Near Llanito Street) Market Value: 1,100,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00 BULACAN ITEM 061 - Industrial Lot with Warehouse Lot Area: 970.00 sqm. Floor Area: 930.00 sqm. Lot 2-C-18 Industrial Subdivision, Bar-nolaba, Guisguis Market Value: 1,700,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00 BULACAN ITEM 062 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 1,521.00 sqm. Floor Area: 284.00 sqm. Lot 3239 & 276-A Bayugo Road Market Value: 5,830,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 4,240,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 063 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm. 5 Block 9, Road Lot 2, Ridoon Coun-ty-side Estate, Bannocapera, Alibon Market Value: 1,650,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 064 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 220.00 sqm. Floor Area: 219.00 sqm. Lot 10, Bk 15, Quenstand St. Area-A, Quenstand Subd. Molo Market Value: 1,984,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,884,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 065 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 115.00 sqm. Floor Area: 64.00 sqm. Lot 31 Amban Market Value: 495,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 360,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 066 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 444.00 sqm. Lot 7 Block 8 Gomez Street, Ayala-southside Village, Phase 1, Molo Market Value: 7,891,200.00 Minimum Bid Price: 7,192,800.00 CAVITE ITEM 067 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 46.90 sqm. Unit 322 Manila South Woods Golf Manor Market Value: 1,876,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,876,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 068 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 67.07 sqm. Unit 228 Manila South Woods Golf Manor Market Value: 2,683,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,548,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 069 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 60.00 sqm. Lot 5 Bk 5 Mather St. San Marino Subd. Palagan Market Value: 1,000,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 228,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 70 - Vacant Lot Lot Area: 180.00 sqm. Lot 14 Bk 37, Fawcett Band, Phase 3 Orchard Subd. Salitan Market Value: 1,841,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,748,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 071 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 60.00 sqm. Floor Area: 42.00 sqm. Lot 10, Bk 17, Diamond St., Goldenville II Market Value: 342,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 342,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 072 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg. Lot Area: 120.00 sqm. Floor Area: 213.00 sqm. Lot 4 Block 11, Yalut Street, And-rogante Executive, Salitan Market Value: 4,400,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,400,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 073 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 400.00 sqm. Floor Area: 345.00 sqm. Lot 13 Block 9, Acapulco Street, City-dangyan Breeze Village VI, Brgy. Bantayan Market Value: 1,760,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,281,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 14 - VACANT Lot Area: 301.00 sqm. Lot 2 Banno Malagaang 1-D Market Value: 736,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 689,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 075 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 150.00 sqm. Floor Area: 288.75 sqm. Lot 6 Block 2, Doña Anding Street St. Martin, Da Pines Subdivision, Bayan Luma Market Value: 2,530,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,070,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 076 - Residential Lot Lot Area: 287.50 sqm. Floor Area: 176.00 sqm. Lot 5089-D Sol P. Bello Corner Taposo Streets, Bayan Luma Market Value: 2,530,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,955,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 077 - Residential Lot w/ Apartment Lot Area: 270.00 sqm. Floor Area: 162.50 sqm. Lot 12 Block 2, Sampaguita Street, Plandil Subdivision, Bayan Luma Market Value: 1,485,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,350,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 078 - Residential Lot w/ Comm'l Bldg. Lot Area: 159.30 sqm. Floor Area: 513.00 sqm. Lot 4 Block 10, Bantolaba, Provincial Road, Maricor Homes, Alibon I Market Value: 5,500,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 4,600,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 079 - Residential Lot w/ Bldg Lot Area: 374.00 sqm. Floor Area: 200.00 sqm. Lot 2281 Malagaang Road, Malaga-sang II Market Value: 3,300,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,700,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 080 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 200.00 sqm. Lot 7 Block 8 Gomez Street, Ayala-southside Village, Phase 1, Molo Market Value: 7,891,200.00 Minimum Bid Price: 7,192,800.00 CAVITE ITEM 081 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 1,615.00 sqm. Lot 16 Along Unam Road, Brgy. Lina, Letaisy, Los Bamos Market Value: 3,520,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,720,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 083 - residential lots with rest-house Lot Area: 2,092.00 sqm. Lot 143-E, 143-F, 143-G, 143-H & 143-I Bantolaba Highway, Caluan Market Value: 260,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,040,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 084 - Industrial Lot w/ Bldg. Lot Area: 438.00 sqm. Floor Area: 90.00 sqm. Lot 4 Along National Road, Barangay Dayag, Caluan Market Value: 1,000,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 085 - Residential Lot Lot Area: 180.00 sqm. Floor Area: 180.00 sqm. Lot 14 Bk 37, Fawcett Band, Phase 3 Orchard Subd. Salitan Market Value: 1,841,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,748,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 086 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Floor Area: 120.00 sqm. Lot 10, Bk 17, Diamond St., Goldenville II Market Value: 342,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 342,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 087 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 281.00 sqm. Floor Area: 213.00 sqm. Lot 4 Block 11, Yalut Street, And-rogante Executive, Salitan Market Value: 4,400,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 3,400,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 088 - Vacant Residential & Comm'l Lot Lot Area: 164.00 sqm. Lot 3-Abarang San Rafael, San Pablo City Market Value: 385,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 287,500.00 CAVITE ITEM 089 - Residential Lot Lot Area: 346.00 sqm. Floor Area: 105.00 sqm. Lot 1454-C-4 Begong Bayan, Sta. Cruz Market Value: 1,430,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,165,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 090 - Abandoned Rice Mill Lot Area: 1,239.00 sqm. 2530 Rizal Street Plaza Market Value: 3,410,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,790,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 091 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 330.00 sqm. Lot 6 & 2 Block 10, Aldramm Subdi-visions, Barangay Callos, Sta. Cruz Market Value: 726,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 594,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 092 - Vacant Residential Lot Lot Area: 527.00 sqm. Lot Area: 527.00 sqm. Lot 10 Block 8, Victoria Market Value: 220,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 093 - Residential Lot & Bldg. Lot Area: 527.00 sqm. Lot Area: 527.00 sqm. Lot 10 Block 8, Victoria Market Value: 220,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 190,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 094 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 293.00 sqm. Floor Area: 286.00 sqm. Lot 19186 (Lot 47-B) Brgy. Sta. Nilo Market Value: 1,702,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,617,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 095 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 567.00 sqm. Floor Area: 107.00 sqm. Lot 2426-D-4-C-2-A-4-B, Bantolan I Market Value: 1,130,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 961,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 096 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 25.00 sqm. Floor Area: 25.00 sqm. Lot 15, Bk 3, Northlands Subd., Phase 8B, Sta. Cruz Market Value: 229,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 218,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 097 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 144.00 sqm. Floor Area: 34.00 sqm. Lot 31, Bk 6, Torosito St., La Poblacion Subd., Muzon Market Value: 422,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 370,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 101 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 66.69 sqm. Unit 407, 47th Floor, Mission Garden Condo #59 Yearoldosa St., Southside Market Value: 2,134,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,028,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 102 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 129.20 sqm. Floor Area: 198.00 sqm. Lot 4, Bk 40, 1110-B Alley 2, Proj. 6 Market Value: 2,582,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 2,548,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 105 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 37.50 sqm. Unit 3F Cluster 4 (Camie), Westmont Village Condominium Market Value: 956,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 509,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 106 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 37.50 sqm. Unit 4B 5B 3 Road Lot 1 & 1, Sta. Rosa Market Value: 1,011,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 961,000.00	CAVITE ITEM 107 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Floor Area: 124.00 sqm. Floor Area: 126.00 sqm. Lot 14 Bk 1, Greenland St., Annex 40, Better Living Subd. Market Value: 1,237,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,176,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 108 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 478.00 sqm. Floor Area: 314.00 sqm. Lots 1 & 2 Bk 31, S. A. Regidor Street, Banno Sanitama Cruz, Sta. Cruz Market Value: 220,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 180,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 109 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 204.00 sqm. Floor Area: 204.00 sqm. 1519 St. Theresa St. San Agustin Village Brgy. Mookmak Market Value: 1,809,000.00 Minimum Bid Price: 1,449,000.00 CAVITE ITEM 110 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 309.00 sqm. Floor Area: 684.00 sqm. Lot 10,
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006

Is manufacturing growing or shrinking?

ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT I CALL genuinely good news in my recent economic briefings is the improving performance of the manufacturing sector that has been apparent for the past two years.

This is a key sector of the Philippine economy, as it accounts for close to one-fourth of our total output and nearly one-tenth of all jobs.

Based on the quarterly National Income Accounts (NIA)—better known as the GNP/GDP statistics—manufacturing output has been growing at a steadily increasing rate since early 2004. From a 3.9 percent annualized growth in the first quarter of 2004, it had picked up to 4.9 percent a year later, ended 2005 with 5.9 percent, and improved further to 6.3 percent early this year. Most recent data show the sector's growth moderating to 5.9 and 4.8 percent in the last two quarters, but these continue to be very respectable rates of growth indeed.

Contradiction

But wait a minute—that's what the National Income Accounts (NIA) say.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) also releases data on manufacturing output every month, based on the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industry or MISSI.

And from those data, a totally

different story comes out: Manufacturing output has been falling continuously since the start of the year!

From the MISSI, growth of the Volume of Production Index (VoPI) in manufacturing has been consistently negative since January, ranging from -2.8 to -13.9 percent.

That is, manufacturing output has been continuously falling since the start of the year, whereas the NIA figures tell us output has been growing at a healthy pace, and growing faster in fact. So which figures are we to believe?

Even more puzzling to me at first was the knowledge that the NIA data on manufacturing are actually based on the MISSI anyway.

How then could these two sets of data tell an entirely opposite story?

Anecdotal evidence

Meanwhile, while talking in the past months about the good news in the growth of manufacturing, I got constant feedback from listeners, readers and friends that their own experience belied the supposed good news. They kept telling me of actual downturns in their businesses and those of their friends, contrary to the growth the numbers were showing.

The common claim is that unfair competition from cheap or smuggled imports from China has been eroding their markets and

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driving them out of business.

But I could only point them to the official data, which not a few started suggesting may be erroneous, or even downright deceptive.

Erroneous, maybe, but deceptive? I'm pretty sure our government statisticians would not risk their reputations by engaging in outright data manipulation just to sugar-coat our economic performance.

I ought to know; I used to work with them directly before.

So I started meeting with them and calling them up.

Sampling bias?

Most people suspect that the sample of establishments being surveyed in the MISSI may no longer be representative of the entire manufacturing sector.

For one thing, I was told that the firms included in the sample are the larger ones.

Thus, in times when the growth in output is coming more from smaller enterprises—as may indeed be the case these days—the sample data may underestimate actual growth.

Or it could also be the other way around.

While the survey sample does get updated periodically, the MISSI data may also understate actual output growth if a big part of the growth happening in between sample updates is coming from new start-up firms.

But the situation may also look better than it actually is at times when there are a lot of firm closures outside of the sample.

But this still doesn't explain the divergence between the trends shown by the NIA and the VoPI, both of which come from the same body of data, the MISSI.

For this, I had to talk to NSO and NSCB directly.

Prices, time lags

NSO derives the aggregate volume of production from the value of production data (which has to be the basis for adding up across industries, since you can't just add electronics and processed mangoes) by dividing the latter by an index of producer prices.

NSCB, I was told, converts the value data into volume terms using a different price index, the "GDP deflator," which is based on a different set of goods.

Herein may lie a key difference, NSO Administrator Carmelita Ericta suggests.

NSCB secretary general Romu-

lo Virola believes that the divergence may be explained more by the fact that the NIA figures benefit from more complete data.

He notes that the VoPI figures are released with a time lag of only 45 days, thus forcing NSO to work with still incomplete or preliminary MISSI data.

In contrast, the NIA figures are released with a 60-day time lag, thus permitting use of more complete and updated data.

In addition, NSCB uses data from other sources like the Department of Energy (for petroleum products), other government surveys, and data from major industry associations. Thus, he believes that the NIA da-

ta showing good news gives the more correct picture.

In the meantime, NEDA's Secretary Romulo Neri, who supervises both statistical agencies, has instructed that release of the monthly VoPI data by NSO be suspended until the issue is further clarified.

So the verdict, for now, is that the news on manufacturing is really good.

If you're one of those manufacturers with the opposite experience, then too bad for you: Our statisticians can only conclude that you may be in the unlucky minority.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

PNOC-EDC sets P3.20 offer price

Geothermal producer to yield P13.5-16.7 billion in proceeds

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GEOTHERMAL POWER PRODUCER PNOC-Energy Development Corp., will sell its shares to the public at P3.20 each starting today until Friday.

At this price, PNOC-EDC will generate between P13.5 billion and P16.7 billion from the sale of 4.235-5.217 billion primary (new) and secondary (old) shares.

PNOC-EDC plans to list the shares on the stock market on December 13, at which time institutional investors such as stock brokers will start selling to the public.

Sources have told the INQUIRER that P1.5 billion of the proceeds would be used for working capital, P935 million for new drilling rigs and the rehabilitation of two rigs and the rest for the development of five steamfields.

PNOC-EDC has tapped CLSA Limited as issue manager and sole lead international underwriter.

Its domestic lead underwriters are BDO Capital & Investment Corp., Development Bank of the Phils., ING Bank N.V. and Land Bank of the Philippines.

Analysts said PNOC-EDC's earnings were expected to reach P5.6 billion this year and P3.5 billion next year.

PNOC-EDC's recently concluded domestic roadshow covered Manila and the cities of Cebu and Davao, the INQUIRER earlier reported. PNOC-EDC has geothermal energy plants with a total installed capacity of 1,148 megawatts.

It accounts for around 60 percent of the total installed geothermal energy capacity in the Philippines.

PNOC-EDC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC).

CURRENCIES

December 3, 2006				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.760398	1.000000	49.7630
Japan	Yen	0.006534	0.008593	0.4276
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479811	1.946100	96.8438
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097798	0.128614	6.4002
Switzerland	Franc	0.628532	0.826583	41.1332
Canada	Dollar	0.668541	0.879198	43.7515
Singapore	Dollar	0.492550	0.647752	32.2341
Australia	Dollar	0.596063	0.783883	39.0084
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.017079	2.652661	132.0044
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.202762	0.266652	13.2694
Brunei	Dollar	0.490960	0.645661	32.1300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021105	0.027755	1.3812
UAE	Dirham	0.207142	0.272413	13.5561
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.315100	65.4433
Argentina	Peso	0.247284	0.325203	16.1831
Brazil	Real	0.349464	0.459580	22.8701
Denmark	Kroner	0.134199	0.176485	8.7824
India	Rupee	0.017053	0.022427	1.1160
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209765	0.275862	13.7277
Mexico	New Peso	0.069105	0.090880	4.5225
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515769	0.678288	33.7536
South Africa	Rand	0.107098	0.140845	7.0089
Korea	Won	0.000817	0.001075	0.0535
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023419	0.030798	1.5326

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 (3) Each fund has its own investment policy and objective to suit clients' investment requirements, horizon and risk preference. A copy of the Declaration of Trust and Plan Rules of each particular fund is available at the principal office of the Trustee.
 (4) A Trust fee of 1.0% p.a. and, early redemption fee of 1.0% for redemptions made within the 30-day minimum holding period, applies to the Fund.
 (5) All funds managed by BPI Asset Management are Trust and/or Investment Management funds which DO NOT carry any guarantee of income or principal, and are NOT covered by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). Past performance is likewise not a guarantee of future results.

Betting fortunes on biofuel boom

Forex savings seen rising from \$167M to \$389M yearly

By Daxim L. Lucas

IS THE COUNTRY'S NASCENT SHIFT TOWARD alternative energy sources—especially alternative fuel for motor vehicles—a long-term trend or just a passing fad?

The country has been flirting on and off with the concept of alternative fuels since the 1970s and the goal of achieving a large degree of self sufficiency in fuel has been around since the Marcos era.

With petroleum prices having shot through the roof worldwide over the past year, it would seem that the time is right for local motorists to take a closer look at the use of alternative fuels.

Coupled with a growing awareness of environmental issues, Chemrez Technologies Inc. is hoping that demand for alternative fuel, especially biodiesel, will grow rapidly in coming years.

The company recently shifted its focus from producing industrial chemicals to the

production of biodiesel with coconut oil as its main raw material.

Chemrez recently raised P1.5 billion through an initial public offering to allow it to make a bigger bet on what it believed was the future of petroleum energy in the country. It will list its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange today.

Reducing import dependence

"Our aim really is to achieve energy independence," chief operating officer Dean Lao Jr. said in an interview. "We have to look for local sources because we are so import dependent."

This is especially true for diesel, which is the fuel of choice of the country's transportation industry and major players in the manufacturing sector—all of which make up the country's largest environmental polluters.

The centerpiece of Chemrez' business model is the enactment of the Biofuels Act of 2006, which mandates a minimum one-percent biodiesel blend in all diesel engine fuels. It also requires at least 5 percent of all fuel sold in the country to be in the form of bioethanol (for gasoline engines) within two years.

The mandated blend will increase to two percent for biodiesel in two years and to at least 10 percent for bioethanol four years after the law takes effect.

ter the law takes effect.

Yet Lao admits that this shift that is so important for the company is not market driven—at least not yet.

"The truth is that there are no incentives for us because the government has no money," he said. "The implementation has to be mandated in the form of a law."

Eventually, however, Chemrez hopes that demand for biodiesel will shoot off the charts once motorists begin feeling its benefits, not only on the environment but also in their wallets over the longer term.

"You have to experience it to believe it," Lao said, explaining that vehicle mileage can rise by anywhere from 5 percent to 25 percent with the use of biodiesel.

The effect, he claims, will be felt more acutely by drivers of older vehicles.

"The older the engine, the more dramatic the increase in efficiency," he said.

This is because the coconut oil additive in the diesel fuel helps it burn faster, more efficiently, and at lower temperatures, making fuel combustion easier.

Economic contributions

"It's not magic," he said. "But biodiesel will give engines the chance to perform as they were designed to."

This may just be what the country's transport sector needs, especially since many operators use reconditioned (an industry euphemism for "junk") engines from vehicles long since phased out in Japan.

"And we all know that the transport sector is the biggest sources of air pollution in the country," the Chemrez chief said. "All that black smoke we see [from smoke-belching jeepneys and buses] are due to poorly burning diesel."

Chemrez version of biodiesel does not come cheap since coconut oil is the second most expensive type of additive at about \$617 per metric tonne on the world market, just slightly lower than rapeseed oil's \$669/MT. The cheapest type of biodiesel additive is palm oil—a market cornered by Malaysia—at only \$442/MT.

Lao concedes that it is more costly to produce Chemrez' version of biodiesel, but stressed that the benefits in terms of increased mileage will make it a market winner.

According to the Department of Energy, using 1 percent biodiesel and 5 percent bioethanol starting 2007 will save the country

The gated communities of Makati

THE ONGOING CONTROVERSY in Bel-Air Village, Makati has attracted the attention of several columnists. As a longtime Bel-Air resident, I would like to say my piece.

The controversy should be viewed from the context of Ayala's grand design for Makati. After World War II, residential subdivisions started mushrooming in Quezon City to meet the demand for homes away from overcrowded Manila. Ayala reversed this trend with an entirely new concept in real estate development.

First, Ayala carved a 40-hectare area at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Edsa into a commercial center. What you see today of the Ayala Center started with a supermarket, a drug store and a movie house.

To create business for the center, residential subdivisions called villages, the likes of which had never been seen before, were opened up: Forbes Park, San Lorenzo, Bel-Air, Magallanes, Dasmariñas and North Forbes. The areas along Ayala and Buendia Avenues were reserved for office buildings. The strip along the railroad track was assigned for light industries.

The educational and spiritual needs of the residents were also taken care of. In due time, Catholic churches were built in Forbes Park, Bel-Air and Magallanes. The International School, Assumption College, and finally, Ateneo opened up in Makati.

Ayala was not interested in just selling a lot. The buyer was encouraged to build a house. If the buyer built within two years from purchase, he got a rebate on the original purchase price. When a house was built, a family would live there. Then, the family would shop at the commercial center. This is why there is not a single vacant lot in the villages.

Ayala created in the villages, as well as in the rest of Makati, the economic power that would be

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



used to purchase all the goodies in the commercial center, where Ayala took, and continues to take, a slice of gross sales. This was the objective of Ayala's 25-year development program. The commercial center is Ayala's perpetual money machine.

Today, Ayala Center no longer relies on the villages for business. The long queues at the foreign exchange counters and the provincial buses at the parking lot, show that many of the shoppers are families of OFWs.

To develop the villages, a house had to be built under certain specifications. In Bel-Air, Phase III, where I have lived since it opened in 1962, the house had to cost at least P25,000, a modest figure even at that pre-inflation era. Being an employee of Ayala then, I got a 20-percent discount on the lot and full financing at 6 percent a year for 20 years. This sweetheart deal allowed me to build a modest four-bedroom, split-level bungalow. The amortization was a princely P240 a month.

The house was for one family only. Then, there was the easement rule: The load-bearing outside walls of the house had to be at least two meters from the property line. These are the so-called deed restrictions, which expire next month.

There is another feature common to the villages. The streets have never been donated to the city. They remain private property. The dues residents pay cover the realty tax, road maintenance, garbage collection, fire fighting facilities, street lighting, overhead, and, above all, security. Guards employed by the village, man the entrance gates. Hence, the term "gated community." The Makati police respect the

QUESTIONS/B7

GGB Club Shares		
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of December 4, 2006		
CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Abasco Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Abasco Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,050,000	
Average Cove Beach and Hilaria Club		
Banue Country Club	500,000	450,000
Carabao Golf Club "A"	40,000	
Carabao Golf Club "B"	50,000	
Camp John Hay		300,000
Capitol Hills	500,000	420,000
Cebu Country Club	1,600,000	1,400,000
Cebu City Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	100,000	90,000
Eastlodge "A/B/C"		
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	
Forest Hills "B"	150,000	
Forest Hills "C"	190,000	
Luzon Golf "A"	350,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	
Makati Golf (Corporate)	12,500,000	12,000,000
Makati Golf (Individual)		11,000,000
Makati Polo	2,750,000	2,670,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	310,000	
Manila Southwoods "B"	780,000	
Manila Yacht Club	250,000	
Mimosa (Individual)	230,000	200,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	650,000
Mt. Matimay Golf "A"	180,000	
Mt. Matimay Golf "C"	350,000	
Orchard Golf Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	330,000	
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	
Quizon City Sports Club	170,000	140,000
Solo & Leda	600,000	480,000
Solo Elena "A"		1,300,000
Solo Elena "B"	2,140,000	
Solo Elena "C"	220,000	
Solo Ray Golf	320,000	250,000
Tagaytay Country Club	650,000	620,000
Tagaytay Highlands	640,000	620,000
Valley Verde (Individual)	100,000	85,000
Valley Verde	200,000	185,000
Waco-Waco Golf Club	7,000,000	6,500,000

GGB Club Shares		
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Valley Verde	200,000	185,000
Waco-Waco Golf Club	7,000,000	6,500,000

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Republic of the Philippines

Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project

BCDA's Outsourcing of the Operation and Maintenance of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) From a Single Service Provider

- The Bases Conversion and Development Authority invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the SCTEx involving the provision of the following support services: Toll Collection; Traffic Management; Roadway Maintenance; General Administration; and Greening and Landscaping. The O&M of the SCTEx is expected to be performed by the single service provider within a period of ten (10) years, commencing on 23 February 2007 and ending on 22 February 2017. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB). The SCTEx is a 4-lane divided toll road running a length of approximately 93.77 kilometers. It consists of two (2) road sections, namely: 50.50 km., 4-lane Subic-Clark Section; and 43.77 km., 4-lane Clark-Tarlac Section.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. After a second round of evaluation for completeness of technical and then financial documentary requirements, the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB), being a percentage of the toll revenues, shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to determine responsiveness of the bid to legal, technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. of any working day from 06 December 2006 to 13 December 2006.

Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center
2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the same address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (PhP75,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall only be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The BCDA will hold a Pre-Qualification Conference open to all interested parties on 13 December 2006, 2:00 p.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.
- Initial Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the BCDA address above on or before 28 December 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following amount:
 - 1% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; or
 - 1.5% of ABC in bank guarantee; or
 - 2.5% of ABC in surety bond; or
 - 100% of ABC in foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC).

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Announcement of Eligible Bidders shall be made by BCDA on 08 January 2007, through a bid bulletin.

- A Pre-bid Conference shall be held for all Eligible Bidders on 10 January 2007, 9:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center, and submission of Final Bids is on or before 25 January 2007, at the same address.
- The BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
- Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to

THE CHAIRMAN
Special Bids and Awards Committee for SCTEx-O&M
Bases Conversion and Development Authority
2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone number 816-6666 loc. 124, facsimile number 816-1043, or email address blandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, SBAC, SCTEx-O&M

(PDI - Dec. 4, 7 & 11, 2006)



BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY SERVICE AREAS

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in the development and privatization of the service areas along the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, each measuring an approximate total area of five hectares (5 has.) located in the following sites:

Clark-Tarlac Segment

- Barangay Santiago, Concepcion, Tarlac - Sta. 19+400, Southbound;

Subic-Clark Segment

- Barangay Dampas/Gutad, Floridablanca, Pampanga - Sta. 21+730, Southbound; and
- Barangay San Ramon/Pabanlag, Floridablanca, Pampanga - Sta. 29+070, Northbound.

Interested proponents should submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the disposition that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the bidding for the privatization.

The TOR for the disposition will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 04 December 2006 at the BCDA Corporate Center. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP 20,000.00 payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 13 December 2006, at 9:00 a.m., at the BCDA Corporate Center. The objective of the conference is to discuss the properties that form part of disposition, the TOR, and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

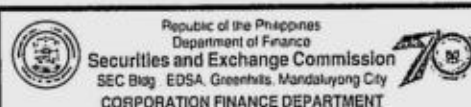
THE CHAIRMAN
Special Bids and Awards Committee
SCTEx Service Areas

Bases Conversion and Development Authority
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center,
31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Email Address: blandal@bcda.gov.ph or cavendano@bcda.gov.ph

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal or Ms. Cyd L. Avendaño at telephone numbers 816-6666 loc. 125 and 8161043.

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, SBAC, SCTEx Service Areas

(PDI-Dec. 4, 7 & 11, 2006)



PRUDENTIAL LIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.
-Registrant-

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on October 12, 2006, an Amended Registration Statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of Prudential Life Fixed Income Fund, Inc. reducing the redemption amount from Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). The proposed amendment will provide investor's financial flexibility and automatic redemption of shares in the Fund to pay for the premium of bundled products like insurance and pre-need.

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
Jose Alberto T. Alba	Chairman of the Board
Raymond P. Navaro	President and Director
Jose L. Santos	Director
Francisco A. Alba	Director
Antonio P. Galmatlan	Director
Paul Joseph M. Garcia	Independent Director
Francisco T. Alba Jr.	Director
Atty. Celeriano A. Palarin	Corporate Secretary
Lynndon L. Lukban	Treasurer

Said Amended Registration Statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI-Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 2006)

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS SERVICE COMMAND
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the sale of Three (3) Lots of Material Properties located at the Supply Unit (Provisional), GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis. Pre-bidding Conference will be conducted on December 12, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the Data Park Pavilion, GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

QUANTITY: 1. One (1) Lot • DESCRIPTION: CV-002-004 One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) Assorted Salvaged/ Junk Vehicles • LOCATION: PRDQ SU(P)

QUANTITY: 2. One (1) Lot • DESCRIPTION: CV-003-004 Assorted Scrap and residue from OM, Engineer, Signal, Ordnance, Medical and Dental items estimated weight of 120 tons • LOCATION: PRDQ SU(P)

QUANTITY: 3. One (1) Lot • DESCRIPTION: CV-004-006 Scrap materials of Demilitarized and condemned / obsolete firearms with an estimated at 258 kgs. • LOCATION: WHIA SU(P)

The above obsolete / unserviceable equipment and other scrap (demilitarized) materials may be inspected at the Supply Unit (P), GHQ & HSC, CGEA, QC during office hours. Contact person Mr. Marlon U. Bulosig, SAQ, PRDQ, SU(P), GHQ & HSC at Tel. No. 911-6001 local 4455

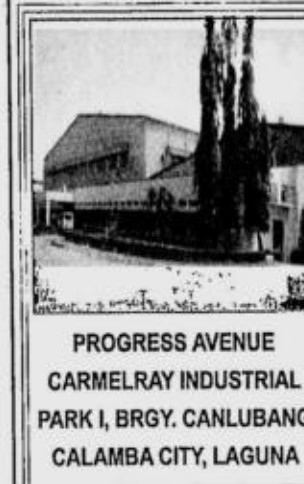
(Sgd.) BGEN ALFREDO S. CAYTON JR AFP
Chairman, GHQ & HSC Disposal Committee

(PDI - Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. IX
Cabanatuan Hills, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit (COA), Regional Office No. 9, Zamboanga City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified at least Small B by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract: COA Satellite Office Building
Location: Jail Heights, Jail, Zamboanga Sibuyan
Brief Description: Construction of COA Satellite Office Building
Approved Budget for The Contract (ABC): PhP 14,828,578.72
Contract Duration: One Hundred Fifty (150) Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. Eligibility check, evaluation of bids, and post-qualification shall be in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	December 14, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	December 14, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	December 20, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	December 21, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 22, 2006 to January 11, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	January 30, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007

The BAC will issue Eligibility Forms at the address below, upon their submission of a LOI and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P100.00 to the COA Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements and may also obtain the results of Eligibility Check at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the COA Cashier.

COA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

November 30, 2006.

(Sgd.) FERMO T. AVILA
Regional Cluster Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Mr. APOLINAR SAGARAL
Head, BAC Secretariat
COMMISSION ON AUDIT-Regional Office No. 9
Cabanatuan, Zamboanga City
Telephone No. (062) 991-6892 / Fax No. 991-3036
(PDI-Dec. 4 & 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
MEYCAUAYAN WATER DISTRICT
Meycauayan, Bulacan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The MEYCAUAYAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) intends to apply the sum of PhP 1,360,889.91 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to the payments under the contract of Protection & Security Services for MWD for the period covering January 01, 2007 at 12:00 MN to 12 MN of December 31, 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The MWD, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for 2007 Protection & Security Services at the following MWD offices:

Location	Min. hours	No. of Guards	Monthly Rate / Guard	Annual
Poblacion Main Office	8	1	9,570.00	114,839.96
St. Francis/Bancal Pump Stations (Day)	12	2	20,767.50	498,419.96
St. Francis/Bancal Pump Stations (Night)	12	2	20,767.50	498,419.96
Pantoc Pump Station (Night)	12	1	20,767.50	249,209.99
			Total	1,360,889.91

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the MWD, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan thru BAC Secretariat with Tel./Fax # (044) 8407414 or (044) 7217964 and inspect/purchase the Bidding Documents at the MWD office from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00) in cash.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents & Eligibility Requirements	Dec. 05-08, 2006 (up to 3:00 p.m. only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
3. Submission of bids, Eligibility Requirements & Opening of Bids	Dec. 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the Prescribed periods allowed in the IRR-A of R.A. No. 9184
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

The MWD assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

The MWD reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, to declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) LUISITO C. DIEGO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Approved:
(Sgd.) MARIANO C. SANGALANG, JR.
General Manager
(PDI - November 27 & December 4, 2006)



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
200 Units. DOT Matrix Printer	PhP 7,000.00	December 7, 2006 2:00 PM	December 20, 2006 1:00 PM	PhP 3,400.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting November 27, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI - Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155



LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
PO Box 162 Ormoc City 6541
Tel. Nos. (053)561-4075/(053)561-4111

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of one unit twenty (20) MVA, 69/13.2 KV power transformer.

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Thousand Pesos Only (P6,000.00) starting October 6, 2006.

Pre-bid conference will be held on December 19, 2006 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on January 17, 2007 at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOVENAL R. ALESNA
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 30, Dec. 2 & 4, 2006)

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| • 2nd Engr | from US\$3,795.- | 8 mos. contract |
| • 3rd Engr | from US\$2,640.- | 10 mos. contract |
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PIC: C/M Chito Mendoza
Tel. Nos. 400-9959; 524-6354/5758 loc. 124
e-mail: recruitment@crewserve.com.ph
POEA Lic. 250-SB-061604-R

Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1101 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Norman Miranda
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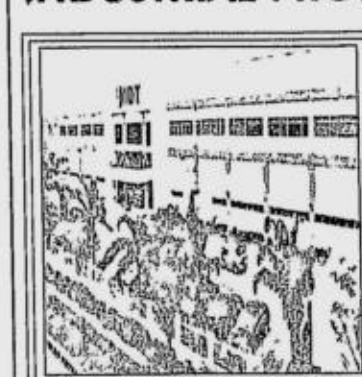
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FOR SALE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY



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CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

Total Land Area: 39,753.79 sq.m.
Total Floor Area: 16,000.00 sq.m.
Zoning: PEZA
Completion Date: August 1996

Improvements:

- Two-storey building
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Page A26

ABS-CBN Foundation joins Worldbex for the 6th World Bazaar Festival

SETTING THE TRADITION for the country's grandest Christmas exposition, Worldbex Services International (WSI) teams up with ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. as it prepares for the 6th World Bazaar Festival, slated on December 7-17, 2006 at the World Trade Center.

Showcasing the latest shopping trends with the most affordable prices, the 6th World Bazaar Festival promises to be an enjoyable day of fun and entertainment. Highlighting the festivities are fun-filled activities like the Night Market, International Village, Playland, Barbie Gallery, Celebriety Town as well as fashion shows, musical shows for the shoppers' revelry. World Bazaar Festival will feature a special Barbie Gallery as well, showcasing the very best of Barbie Collection.

Everyone will also get a

chance to be with their favorite Kapamilya stars for photo sessions and autograph signing. Countless assortments of car accessories, fashion jewelry, toys, clothing, footwear, plastic products and many more await the many enthusiastic Pinoy bazaristas.

ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan, an organization that promotes awareness in nature and advocates the preservation of the environment, will be the beneficiary of the event.

The 6th World Bazaar Festival promises to be an exciting Christmas adventure for all shopping lovers in the country as Worldbex Services International continuously ensures a quality and entertaining exposition to satiate shoppers.

For inquiries, you may call tel. nos. 5316350 or 5316374 M or you may send email at info@worldbex.com

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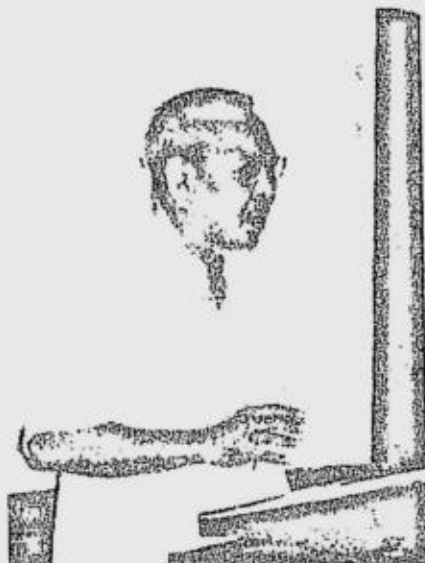
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Conductors meet for International Rondalla fest

RONDALLA CONDUCTORS FROM different regions of the country met last Nov. 15, at the UP College of Music to finalize repertoires and to set standards for performances in the forthcoming 2nd International Rondalla Festival, which will take place in Dumaguete City in February 2007. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Ramon P. Santos, festival director and Professor Chino Toledo, artistic director. The 2nd International Rondalla Festival is presented by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), through the Musico-logical Society of the Philippines, Inc., and in partnership with the province of Oriental Negros. Interested parties may call (632) 9260028 or email: rondalla2007@yahoo.com or visit www.rondallafestival.com.



DR. RAMON SANTOS



RONDALLA conductors with professor Chino Toledo.

Holiday treats in PPO concert

THE PHILIPPINE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (PPO) 2006-2007 season continues with its fifth concert entitled "Holiday Treats" featuring soprano Camille Lopez-Molina and the UP Concert Chorus, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri, on Dec. 8, 2006, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater), with a pre-concert chat at the CCP Main Theater lobby at 7 p.m.

Program includes Tchaikovsky's Polonaise from E. Onegin, third act, and Sleeping Beauty Suite, Op. 66a, as well as Filipino and traditional holiday favorites.

Camille Lopez-Molina studied Voice at the University of the Philippines College of Music under the tutelage of Prof. Fides Cuyugan-Asensio. She was a scholar of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, earning a Professional Diploma in Opera Studies under Prof. Kevin Miller. From 1996 to 2001, she studied at the Konservatorium der Stadt Wien under professors Marija Sklad-Sauer and Julia Conwell. Camille has performed in various productions here and abroad. She is a faculty member of St. Scholastica's College School of Music, Centro Escolar University Conservatory of Music, and the Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music.

Italian conductor Ruggero Barbieri's international career embraces both the symphonic and operatic repertoires. Currently the Artistic Director and Founder of the Intramuros International Music Festival in Manila, he has recently concluded his successful tenure as Music Director and Principal of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he earned in 1997. He

continues his association with the orchestra as a regular guest conductor. He and the PPO toured Europe in 2001, during which the orchestra performed with the Filipino artists and presented works of Philippine music that were much appreciated by the audiences.

During the incumbency of General Carlos P. Romulo as President of the University of the Philippines, the UP Concert Chorus was born. Formed in 1962, the group has metamorphosed from a simple choral ensemble performing for the university's cultural presentations to a musical force of national and international stature. Winner of the ALIW (Entertainment) Award as Best Cultural Group and recipient of a CECIL award for their recording of Ryan Cayabyab's Misa, the choir has also distinguished itself by winning top prizes in international choral competitions. Undaunted in their musical ventures, the choral group has performed medieval music dramas, a mime play, operas, Broadway musicals, musical revues and zarzuelas to critical public acclaim. It has also produced full-length television specials, appeared in movies ("Kakabakaba Ka Ba?" by Mike de Leon) and done all conceivable types of choral music from the heavy classics to avant garde, popular and rock/jazz songs.

Tickets are P350/500/700/900, with discounts available to students, senior citizens and groups. For inquiries, contact Lilia Casasola Januare of CCP Marketing Department (832-1125 loc. 1806) or the CCP Box Office (832-3704), Ticketworld at National Bookstore and Tower Records (891-9999) or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

OBITUARIES

CHRIS R. GABRIEL

(March 13, 1985 - December 2, 2006)

Our kind-hearted brother, colleague, and friend.

Please join Chris' family as we pray and thank the Lord for the many fond memories he has left in our hearts.

The interment Mass will be at St. James the Great Parish on Wednesday, December 6 at 9 am.

From the management and employees of

Johnson & Johnson
(Philippines), Inc.



Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, East Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila



SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 14
Series of 2006

SUBJECT: RULES GOVERNING THE OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) MARKET

WHEREAS, the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) empowers the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) to promulgate rules and regulations and orders that shall govern Exchanges and other securities trading markets;

WHEREAS, Chapter IX of the SRC contains the sections that pertain to the regulation of Exchanges and other securities trading markets. Specifically,

- Section 32.1 prohibits brokers, dealers, salesmen and associated persons of broker or dealer from using unregistered Exchange;
- Section 32.2 (a) also prohibits brokers, dealers, salesmen and associated persons of broker or dealer from making, creating or operating, or enabling another to make, create or operate, any trading market, otherwise than on a registered Exchange, for the buying and selling of any security, except in accordance with rules and regulations that the Commission prescribes;
- Section 32.2 (b) further authorizes the Commission to promulgate rules and regulations governing transactions by brokers, dealers, salesmen or associated persons of broker or dealer, over any facilities of such trading market and to require such market to be administered by a self-regulatory organization (SRO) determined by the Commission as capable of ensuring the protection of investors comparable to that provided in the case of a registered Exchange, and that such SRO must provide a centralized marketplace for trading and must satisfy requirements comparable to those prescribed for registration of Exchanges in Section 33 of the SRC;
- Section 33 requires the registration of an Exchange;
- Section 36.2 empowers the Commission to require and enforce uniformity of trading regulations between or among Exchanges or other trading markets, where two (2) or more Exchanges or other trading markets exist;
- Section 36.3 recognizes the authority of the Commission to determine the number, size and location of stock Exchanges, other trading markets and commodity Exchanges and other similar organizations in the light of national or regional requirements for such activities with the view to promote, enhance, protect, conserve or rationalize investment, and;
- Section 37 authorizes the Commission, having due regard for national economic development, to encourage competitiveness in the market to promulgate rules for the registration and licensing of innovative and other trading markets or Exchanges covering, but not limited to, the issuance and trading of innovative securities, securities of small, medium, growth and venture enterprises, and technology-based ventures;

WHEREAS, the rules governing the registration of Exchanges have already been promulgated and are embodied in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the SRC;

WHEREAS, the rules governing the issuance and trading of innovative and non-traditional securities and registration and licensing of innovative and non-traditional markets have been promulgated and are reflected in the Rules and Regulations on Alternative Trading Systems (ATS);

WHEREAS, the existing Rules Governing Secondary Market Trade of Government Securities must be strengthened;

WHEREAS, there is a need to promulgate rules governing existing trading market that shall recognize the activities of brokers, dealers, salesmen and associated persons of broker or dealer in trading securities that are otherwise not qualified for listing or trading in an Exchange or ATS, and support the bilateral negotiation between the buyer and seller before concluding a transaction which is generally referred to as the OTC market;

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that the OTC market shall operate in a manner that is consistent with investor protection, market integrity and transparency in order to promote the development of the capital market;

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues and promulgates the following rules governing OTC market and the transactions and persons involved therein.

Section 1. Title, Applicability and Interpretation -

- A. These rules shall be known as the "Rules Governing The Over-The-Counter (OTC) Market" or "OTC rules" for brevity. These rules shall govern the operation and use of an OTC market by registered persons such as brokers, dealers, salesmen or associated persons of broker or dealer, who trade or deal in securities in the secondary market.
 - B. The requirements under these rules shall be in addition to those provided under the following: (1) SRC and other related laws and their IRRs insofar as their provisions are applicable; (2) internal policies, procedures, conventions of brokers or dealers, and; (3) rules, procedures and conventions of the SRO that shall regulate and supervise the brokers, dealers, salesmen or associated persons of broker or dealer who participate in the OTC market, to the extent that such policies, rules, procedures and conventions do not contravene the SRC, its IRR and these rules.
 - C. The OTC rules shall not alter or abrogate the obligations of a broker, dealer, salesman or associated person of broker or dealer to comply with other applicable laws, rules, or regulations that may govern the operations of such registered persons.
 - D. These rules shall be construed in a manner which shall establish a socially conscious free market that regulates itself, ensure transparency and full and timely disclosure of material information, protect investors, preserve market integrity, avoid systemic risk, prevent fraudulent or manipulative devices and practices, enhance the democratization of wealth and promote the development of the capital market.
- Section 2. Definition of Terms -** For purposes of these rules, the following definition of terms shall apply unless the context otherwise requires:
- (A) **Algorithm** refers to a set of rules that govern the process of prioritizing and matching of quotations against contract orders.
 - (B) **Associated person of broker or dealer (AP)** refers to any person employed full time by a broker or dealer whose responsibilities include internal control supervision of other employees, agents, salesmen, officers, directors, clerks and stockholders of such broker or dealer for compliance with the SRC and its IRR. An AP shall not perform other duties without Commission approval and subject to the condition that the broker or dealer will maintain the appropriate Chinese Wall between the functions of an AP and that of his other duties.
 - (C) **Broker** refers to a person engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for the account of others.
 - (D) **Dealer** refers to a person who buys and sells securities for his own account in the ordinary course of business.
 - (E) **Government Securities Eligible Dealer or GSED** refers to a dealer registered by the Commission as such.
 - (F) **OTC Market** refers to the market created by the buying and selling of a security on a bilateral basis between parties that takes place outside of an Exchange or Alternative Trading System (ATS).
 - (G) **OTC Quotation System or Quotation System** refers to the system defined in Section 9 of these rules.
 - (H) **OTC Transaction or OTC Trade** refers to a purchase or sale of security that takes place in an OTC market.
 - (I) **Participant in an OTC Market** refers to a broker, dealer, salesman or associated person of broker or dealer who is authorized to participate in the OTC market. The term "counterparty" as used in these rules refers to a person who is the other party to an OTC transaction.
 - (J) **Qualified Investor** refers to any of the qualified buyers defined under Section 10.1 (L) of the SRC and any of the institutional accounts defined under SRC Rule 52.1-6 of the IRR of the SRC or such other person declared by the Commission by way of rule or order as a qualified investor taking into consideration such person's net worth or financial background would allow him to bear the risk that may arise from participating in an OTC market.
 - (K) **Salesman** refers to a natural person hired to buy and sell securities on a salary or commission basis properly endorsed to the Commission by the employing broker or dealer. It includes any employee of an issuer company whose compensation is determined directly or indirectly on sales of the issuer's securities.
 - (L) **Self-Regulatory Organization or SRO** refers to an organized Exchange, registered clearing agency or any organization or association registered as an SRO under Section 39 of the SRC to enforce compliance with relevant provisions of the SRC and IRR issued thereunder, and mandated to make and enforce its own rules, which have been approved by the Commission, by their members and/or participants. It is an organization that enforces fair, ethical and efficient practices in the securities and commodity futures industries, including securities and commodities Exchanges.
 - (M) **Secondary market** refers to the market where outstanding securities are bought and sold. In contrast, **primary market** refers to a market where new securities are sold.

Section 3. Making, Creating or Operating An OTC Market-

- A. A broker, dealer, salesman, or associated person of broker or dealer, singly or in concert with any other person, is prohibited from making, creating or operating or enabling another to make, create or operate an OTC market, except in accordance with these rules.
- B. A person shall be viewed to be making, creating or operating an OTC market:

1. If in the ordinary course of his business, he buys, sells or publishes or submits for publication a quotation to a quotation system, or holds himself before the public that he is ready or his activity act is perceived that he is ready to buy or sell or to publish or submit for publication a quotation to a quotation system, for any security, other than in an Exchange or ATS. In this case, he shall be construed to be acting as **dealer** in an OTC market and should shall be registered accordingly.
 2. If he searches for a counterparty to a buy or sell order that is left with him by another person for his disposal or holds himself before the public that he is ready or he is perceived that he is ready to search for a counterparty to a buy or sell order that is left with him for his disposal, either by direct search or participation in a quotation system, for any security, other than in an Exchange or ATS. In this case, he shall be construed to be acting as **broker** in an OTC market and shall be registered accordingly.
 3. If he represents himself as an agent or salesman or of affiliated with a dealer or broker as construed in this section and buys, sells or publishes or submits for publication a quotation, for and on behalf of the principal or customer account of such dealer or broker, for any security, other than in an Exchange or ATS. In this case, he shall be construed to be acting as a **salesman** of broker or dealer in an OTC market and should shall be registered accordingly.
- C. A person shall be viewed to be **enabling** another person to make, create or operate an OTC market if he sells or buys a security or publishes or submits for publication a quotation in other person's quotation system:
 - D. A group of two or more brokers, dealers, and/or salesmen or associated persons of broker or dealer shall be viewed to be **acting in concert** in making, creating or operating an OTC market if in buying and selling a security between and/or among each other, in a market other than an Exchange or ATS, the group utilizes a common quotation system and the access to such common quotation system by other persons is restricted by some standards, conventions or requirements prescribed by the group or the operator of the quotation system.
 - E. Nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from declaring any person to be making, creating or operating an OTC market, or enabling another person to make, create or operate an OTC market or acting in concert with other person in making, creating or operating an OTC market, and impose sanction where the circumstances warrant.

Section 4. Registration of Broker, Dealer, Salesman and Associated Person of Broker or Dealer In An OTC Market -

A. General Provisions:

1. No person shall act as a broker, dealer, salesman or an associated person of broker or dealer unless he is registered as such pursuant to the requirements of Section 28 of the SRC.
2. No person shall make, create or operate an OTC market unless he is a registered broker, dealer or salesman of broker or dealer in an OTC market.
3. No broker, dealer or salesman shall enable another person to make, create or operate an OTC market unless the latter is authorized to act as broker, dealer or salesman in an OTC market.

B. Registration of Broker or Dealer In An OTC Market:

1. In applying for registration as a broker or dealer, the applicant shall specifically signify in the application his intention to conduct the activities of a broker or dealer in an OTC market, either singly or in concert with others, prior to engaging in said activities.
2. A broker or dealer with current registration shall amend his registration to specifically reflect his intention to conduct the activities of a broker or dealer in an OTC market, either singly or in concert with others, prior to engaging in said activities.

C. Registration of Salesman or Associated Person of Broker or Dealer In An OTC Market:

1. A broker or dealer shall cause the registration of a person or the amendment of the registration of a salesman or associated person with current registration before allowing such person to act as a salesman or associated person of broker or dealer in an OTC market.
2. A salesman or associated person of broker or dealer shall not act as such unless he has determined that the broker or dealer to which he is affiliated is registered to act as broker or dealer in an OTC market and that he is authorized to act as salesman or associated person in an OTC market.
3. A broker or dealer shall ensure that his salesman or associated person has acquired the competence and skills to perform the activities of a salesman or associated person in an OTC market before causing his registration or the amendment of his existing registration as salesman or associated person in an OTC market.

Section 5. Registration of A Group of Persons To Operate An OTC Market - No group of two or more brokers, dealers, and/or salesmen or associated persons of broker or dealer shall act in concert in making, creating or operating an OTC market unless such group forms and causes the registration of an association of brokers and/or dealers pursuant to Section 39 of the SRC and which association shall act as a self-regulatory organization (SRO) to regulate and supervise the activities of the members of the group or unless the persons/brokers, dealers and/or salesmen who are included/part in such group are currently members of an SRO in accordance with Section 6 of these rules.

Section 6. Membership In An SRO -

- A. No broker or dealer shall participate in an OTC market unless he is a member of an SRO that has been registered with the Commission for the purpose of regulating and supervising the activities of the broker or dealer in an OTC market.
- B. In case a broker or dealer is already a member of an existing SRO whose current status is for the purpose of regulating and supervising a market other than the OTC market, such broker or dealer may be allowed to participate in the OTC market; *Provided*, that the broker or dealer shows proof and the existing SRO is able to demonstrate that said SRO is capable of performing its regulatory and supervisory obligations relative to the activities of the broker or dealer in the OTC market; *Provided further*, that the SRO has committed to regulate and supervise the broker or dealer with respect to such activities.; *Provided finally*, that the SRO files an amendment to its current SRO registration to reflect its intention to act as SRO in such OTC market.
- C. The Commission may prescribe the governance and ownership structure of an SRO or require amendment thereto to ensure the effective regulation and supervision of the OTC market.

Section 7. Eligible Investors In An OTC Market -

- A. An investor in the OTC market shall be treated either as a qualified investor or as a non-qualified investor.
- B. An investor falling under the definition of Section 2 (J) of these rules may be recognized as a qualified investor and allowed to deal directly in an OTC market subject to any of the following conditions:
 1. An investor who opts to participate as a qualified investor can directly buy or sell security in an OTC market; *Provided*, that this type of participation is explicitly recognized and accepted by a broker or dealer that singly makes, creates or operates an OTC market by embodying the same in the client agreement required under SRC Rule 30.2 (3); *Provided further*, that if an investor participates in an OTC market operated by a group, this type of participation is explicitly recognized and accepted by the group based on the participation agreement entered into by all participants and/or on the internal rules prescribed by the OTC market and approved by the Commission.
 2. An investor who opts not to participate as a qualified investor shall be treated as non-qualified investor and shall participate in the manner allowed for non-qualified investor.
- C. A non-qualified investor shall not participate in an OTC market unless such participation is in any of the following manners:
 1. Through the service of another person such as broker, investment house or bank, each in its capacity as an authorized broker in an OTC market; or
 2. Through participation in a registered or chartered collective investment scheme such as an investment company, non-directional trust fund or pension fund.
- D. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to mean that a qualified investor has waived his right to protection of the SRC and its IRR.

Section 8. Eligible Securities In An OTC Market -

- A. A broker, dealer or salesman of broker or dealer shall buy or sell or quote a buy or sell price in the OTC market only in the following categories of securities:
 1. A security that is registered pursuant to Section 8 of the SRC;
 2. A security that is exempt from registration pursuant to Section 9 of the SRC;
 3. A security that is exempt from registration pursuant to Section 10 of the SRC;
 4. A security of an entity that is deemed as a "public company" pursuant to Section 38 of the SRC and its IRR;
- B. Notwithstanding paragraph A of this section, a security that is already being traded in an Exchange or an ATS shall not be quoted or traded

in an OTC market unless the Commission specifically allows the quoting or trading of such security in an OTC market.

- C. Recognizing the role of government securities in the government's effort in laying down monetary and fiscal policies, the Commission hereby allows the trading of government securities in an OTC market.

Section 9. Quotation and Quotation System -

- A. Except as otherwise specified in these rules, "quotation" shall mean any bid or offer at a specified price with respect to a security, or any indication of interest by a broker or dealer in receiving bid or offer from others for a security, or any indication by a broker or dealer that he wishes to advertise his general interest in buying or selling a particular security.

A debt issue shall be quoted in a quotation system both in peso amount or in any other applicable currency and/or in yield to maturity.

- B. "Quotation system" shall mean any inter-dealer quotation system or any publication, set of procedures or electronic communications network or other device, or a combination thereof, which is used by brokers or dealers, singly or in concert with others, to make known to others their interest in transactions in any security, including offers to buy or sell at a stated price or otherwise, or invitations of offers to buy or sell, either for the account of customers or for the principal account.

Section 10. Submission of Information Relative to the Quotation System -

- A. No broker or dealer shall activate a quotation system unless the following shall have been submitted to the Commission for notation:
 1. A description of such quotation system or amendment thereof;
 2. A description showing how an actual transaction would transpire;
 3. The internal rules and procedures specifying among others:
 - a. How a person may participate in the quotation system;
 - b. How a person accepted to participate in the system may submit a quotation for publication;
 - c. How a person accepted to participate in the system may view the quotation of other participants and act as a counterparty to a published quotation;
 - d. Other rights and responsibilities of a participant that shall allow the viewing, submission, execution and settlement of a published quotation.
 4. The procedures for making available to participants information about the security and the issuer of the security being quoted.
 5. An affidavit of undertaking that the quotation system shall connect with other quotation systems, the central trade reporting system, the system of an existing exchange or an SRO, upon order of the Commission, within the manner and period prescribed by the Commission.
 - B. A quotation system that provides an algorithm that automatically executes published buy or sell quotation with a contra order shall not be used in an OTC market unless the owner, operator or common users of such quotation system are able to demonstrate that the quotation system preserves the characteristic of conducting bilateral negotiation before execution that is inherent in an OTC trade.
- A quotation system is deemed to have achieved this required characteristic if the system also provides an algorithm that determines the acceptability of the parties to each other in terms of establishing the ability of each party to either pay the cash or to deliver the security in a particular trade, before automatically executing the orders or establishing the creditworthiness of parties based on each party's internal credit setting policies, or other procedures that the Commission determines to have achieved the same characteristic.
- C. The broker or dealer that will operate the quotation system shall maintain in his office the following documents which shall be made available to the representatives of the Commission upon request for inspection and examination:
 1. A list of and a written description of each software system or program and a diagram or matrix showing its applications and functions, if any.
 2. A written description of the hardware component and the communication facility of the system which shall include configuration, capacity, and the ability to interconnect with other OTC markets, Exchanges, ATS, other trading markets and a central trade reporting system, if and when required by the Commission.
 3. A business continuity and recovery plan.
 4. Copy of pro-forma agreement between and/or among participants in the quotation system.
 5. Copy of agreement between the operator of a quotation system and any third-party service provider.
 6. The ground(s) and procedures that may disqualify an accepted participant from participating in the quotation system.
 7. The ground(s) and procedures for terminating the quotation on a security.
 8. Risk Management Manual relative to the operation of a quotation system;
 9. Other requirements that the Commission may prescribe.
 - D. The Commission may add, remove or modify the list of information that shall be viewed by the participants in a quotation system.
 - E. For audit and/or surveillance purposes, the dealers, brokers or group of dealers and/or brokers shall grant the Commission access to their quotation systems. If a third party is engaged to provide the quotation system service, the service agreement between the parties, mentioned in subsection C(5) of this section, shall expressly provide that the Commission shall have access to the quotation system.

Section 11. Operation of A Quotation System By A Dealer -

- A. A dealer who operates a quotation system shall be deemed to act as market maker for security that shall be quoted in said system.
- A dealer acting as a market maker shall publish two(2)-way quotes for a security in a continuous manner.
- B. A dealer shall immediately publish in his quotation system the price, volume, date and time of the transaction done or executed in his quotation system. A dealer shall also immediately publish the trade details of transactions on a security executed in another quotation system on a security for which he makes market shall be published by the dealer in his quotation system immediately upon being made available by a central trade reporting system.
- C. In case where a third party is engaged by a dealer to provide the quotation system, the dealer shall be accountable for the acts, errors or omissions of the third party service provider.

Section 12. Operation of A Quotation System By A Broker -

- A. A broker who operates a quotation system shall only facilitate the publication and/or execution of published quotation but such broker shall not act as a counterparty to a quotation published in the quotation system he is operating.
- B. A broker shall immediately publish in his quotation system the price, volume, date and time of the transaction done or executed in another quotation system on a security that is also being quoted in his quotation system. A broker shall also immediately publish the trade details of transactions on a security executed in another quotation system on a security for which he creates a market shall be published by the dealer in his quotation system immediately upon being made available by a central trade reporting system.
- C. In case where a third party is engaged by a broker to provide the quotation system, the broker shall be accountable for the acts, errors or omissions of the third party service provider.

Section 13. Operation of A Quotation System By A Group of Brokers and/or Dealers -

- A. A group of brokers and/or dealers that operates a quotation system or uses a common quotation system which is provided by a third party shall likewise submit to the Commission the requirements under Section 10 of these rules.
- B. The group shall immediately post in its quotation system the price, volume, date and time of the transaction done or executed in its quotation system. The group shall also immediately publish the trade details of transactions executed in another quotation system on a security for which any member of the group makes, creates or operates a market upon being made available by a central trade reporting system.
- C. In case where a third party is engaged by a group of brokers and/or dealers to provide the quotation system, the brokers and/or dealers concerned shall be accountable for the acts, errors or omissions of the third party service provider.

Section 14. Integration of the Quotation Systems -

- A. Pursuant to its mandate under Section 39 of the SRC, the Commission, when it finds necessary and appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of the investors, may order the electronic integration of the various quotation systems, the central trade reporting system, the systems of an Exchange, SRO and/or other market participants, in a manner and within reasonable period that it shall prescribe. Such integration should be able, among others, to ensure transparency, facilitate exchange of information and route orders in a security among competing quotation systems to achieve, among others, best execution.
- B. The Commission may also require a broker or dealer or group of

brokers and/or dealers to provide the Commission access and linkage to his or its quotation system.

Section 15. Required Information Before Initiation or Resumption of Quotations -

- A. No broker or dealer shall publish or submit a quotation on a security for publication in a quotation system unless such broker or dealer has in his records the following documents:
1. Copy of the prospectus relative to the subject security.
 2. Copy of the most recent quarterly and current reports that have been filed under the provisions of the SRC by the issuer; *Provided*, that prior to the initial publication or submission of a quotation, a broker or dealer shall have in his records copy of the quarterly and current reports for the last twelve (12) months.
 3. Copy of the issuer's most recent annual report that has been filed under the provisions of the SRC by the issuer.
- B. Moreover, no broker or dealer shall publish or submit a quotation on a security for publication in a quotation system unless such broker or dealer has in his records the following specific information which shall be reasonably current in relation to the day the quotation is submitted and which the broker or dealer shall make reasonably available to any person expressing an interest in a proposed transaction in the security with such broker or dealer:
1. Exact name of the issuer and its predecessor (if any).
 2. Address of the issuer's principal office.
 3. Latest articles of incorporation and by-laws of issuer.
 4. Exact title and class of the security.
 5. Par or stated value of the security.
 6. Number of shares or total amount of the securities issued and outstanding based on the latest report filed with the Commission.
 7. Coupon rate, date of issue and maturity date.
 8. Material features of the security such as convertibility, callability, redemption, lock-up period and the likes.
 9. Name and address of the transfer agent and/or registrar.
 10. Nature of the issuer's business.
 11. Nature of products or services offered by the issuer.
 12. Nature and extent of the issuer's facilities.
 13. Names of the chief executive officer and members of the board of directors and other key officers of the issuer.
 14. Issuer's most recent balance sheet and profit and loss and retained earnings statements.
 15. Similar financial information for such part of the two (2) preceding fiscal years as the issuer or its predecessor has been in existence.
 16. Whether the broker or dealer or any associated person is affiliated, directly or indirectly with the issuer.
 17. Whether the quotation is being published or submitted on behalf of any other broker or dealer, and, if so, the name of such broker or dealer.
 18. Whether the quotation is being submitted or published directly or indirectly on behalf of the issuer, or any director, officer or any person, directly or indirectly the beneficial owner of more than ten percent (10%) of the outstanding units or shares of any equity security of the issuer, and, if so, the name of such person, and the basis for any exemption under the SRC for any sale of such securities on behalf of such person.

If the listed information in subsection B is made available to others, such delivery, unless otherwise represented, shall not constitute a representation by such broker or dealer that such information is accurate, but shall constitute a representation by such broker or dealer that the information is reasonably current in relation to the day the quotation is submitted, that the broker or dealer has a reasonable basis under the circumstances for believing the information is accurate in all material respects, and that the information was obtained from sources which the broker or dealer has a reasonable basis for believing are reliable.

- C. The requirements of subsections A and B shall be compiled to the extent that these are applicable.

- D. In addition, a broker or dealer submitting or publishing quotation shall have in his records the following documents:

1. A record of the circumstances involved in the submission or publication of such quotation which shall include (a) the identity of the person or persons for whom the quotation is being submitted or published, and (b) any information regarding the transactions provided to the broker or dealer by such person or persons;
2. A copy of any trading suspension order issued by the Commission pursuant Section 36 of the SRC with respect to any security of the issuer during the twelve (12) months preceding the date of the publication or submission of the quotation, or a copy of any other document issued by the Commission evidencing such trading suspension; and
3. A copy or a written record of any other material information (whether favorable or adverse information) regarding the issuer which comes to the broker's or dealer's knowledge or possession before the publication or submission of the quotation.

- E. A broker or dealer shall preserve the documents and information required under subsections A, and B and D of this section for a period of not less than five (5) years, the first two (2) years in an easily accessible place.

- F. A broker or dealer shall establish procedures to ensure that he will be able to secure the annual, quarterly, and current reports in a timely manner.

Section 16. Trade Reporting Obligations -

- A. A broker or dealer or group of brokers and/or dealers that owns or operates a quotation system, shall post or publish in its quotation system all transactions executed in said system within one (1) minute from execution.

The broker or dealer or group of brokers and/or dealers shall also report said transactions to a central trade reporting system in a manner and within the period prescribed by the Commission or by the operator of said central trade reporting system, whichever is stricter or earlier, but in no case shall it be more than fifteen (15) minutes from execution of transaction.

The trade details of the transaction that shall be posted or published in the quotation system and reported to the central trade reporting system shall include the price, volume, date and time of execution of the transaction.

- B. The central trade reporting system shall make available such trade details to other quotation systems quoting or authorized to quote the same security for immediate publication in such other quotation systems.

Section 17. Approval of A Central Trade Reporting System -

- A. No person shall operate or provide a central trade reporting system unless such system has been approved by the Commission.

- B. In applying for the approval of the system, the operator or provider shall submit the following requirements:

1. A flowchart showing how actual activities would transpire;
2. A list of and a written description of each software system or program and a diagram or matrix showing its applications and functions, if any;
3. A written description of the hardware component and the communication facility of the system which shall include configuration, capacity, and the ability to interconnect with various OTC participants such as broker or dealer in OTC markets, Exchanges, ATS or other trading markets, and with another central trade reporting system, if and when required by the Commission;
4. Business plan;
5. A business continuity and recovery plan;
6. Implementation Plan;
7. Rules and Operating Procedures;
8. Proof of payment of filing fee in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00); and
9. Other requirements that the Commission may prescribe in the interest of the public or protection of investors.

- C. The Commission may prescribe the governance and ownership structure of the central trade reporting system.

Section 18. Capital Adequacy Requirements and Reports -

- A. A broker or dealer in an OTC market shall maintain adequate financial resources in accordance with the minimum capital adequacy requirements and other capital-related obligations that are required of such broker or dealer by the Commission under the SRC and its IRR.

- B. If the entity acting as broker or dealer is a bank regulated by the BSP, then such entity shall maintain the minimum capital adequacy requirement and other capital-related obligations that are required of said entity by the BSP; *Provided*, that the bank shall file with the Commission and the SRO the pertinent documents on capital that have been filed with BSP not later than three (3) business days after being filed with BSP.

- C. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to mean that the Commission or the designated SRO is precluded from examining the books and records of the bank relative to its securities business and from imposing sanction in case of breach.

- D. In case of breach by a bank, the Commission shall impose the corresponding sanctions being enforced on broker or dealer as if the violation is a breach of SRC Rules on Risk Based Capital Adequacy (RBCA).

- E. If the entity is a qualified investor, it shall maintain the minimum capital adequacy requirement and other capital-related obligations that are required of said entity by the relevant regulatory agency.

- F. In case of breach by a qualified investor, the Commission may declare the entity as being unfit to continue participating as a qualified investor in the OTC market.

Section 19. Commissions, Charges and Fees -

- A. A broker or dealer shall not effect transaction in an OTC market unless

he has disclosed and explained to his customer the various fees, if any, involved in effecting such transaction and the customer has agreed to said fees. New clients should signify their assent to the various fees being charged by the broker or dealer in writing.

- B. The fees to a transaction should be presented in the confirmation advice in an unbundled manner.

- C. The rules on commissions and charges to the extent these are imposed for services performed by broker or dealer under SRC Rule 30.2 (5) shall also apply.

Section 20. Clearing and Settlement -

- A. No broker or dealer shall effect transaction in an OTC market unless he has disclosed and has secured agreement from the counterparty as to how a transaction shall clear and settle. The broker or dealer shall ensure that the clearing and settlement arrangement shall be prompt and accurate and shall define among others: (1) Due date as to settlement; (2) Due date as to delivery of the security; and; (3) Due date as to payment of cash.

- B. The clearing and settlement arrangement in the exchange of assets subject of the trade shall be on a delivery versus payment (DVP) scheme.

- C. No broker or dealer shall allow the clearing and settlement of an OTC transaction via an intermediary unless such intermediary is a registered clearing agency or has been authorized by the Commission to act as intermediary.

- D. The Commission may require market participants to use uniform settlement systems in the public interest and for the protection of the investors.

Section 21. Other Applicable Rules in The SRC-IRR - The provisions of the SRC and its IRR applicable to a broker, dealer, salesman, and associated person of broker or dealer shall still apply unless explicitly ruled otherwise by the Commission. Accordingly, a broker, dealer, salesman or associated person of broker or dealer shall comply with the following rules among others:

SRC Rule Number	Title
SRC Rule 24.1(b)-1	Prohibition of Manipulative Practices
SRC Rule 24.1(d)	Prohibition of Manipulation of Security Prices; Devices and Practices
SRC Rule 24.2-2	Short Sales
SRC Rule 24.2-3	Prohibition on Guarantees Against Loss
SRC Rule 25.1	Regulation of Options Trading
SRC Rule 26.3	Prohibition of Fraudulent Transactions
SRC Rule 28.1	Registration of Brokers and Dealers
SRC Rule 28.2	Compliance with Qualification Requirements of Self Regulatory Organization
SRC Rule 29	Protection of Customer Accounts Where Registration of a Broker Dealer is Suspended or Revoked
SRC Rule 30.1	Monitoring of Affiliated Transactions by Broker Dealers
SRC Rule 30.2	Transactions Responsibilities of Brokers and Dealers
SRC Rule 31	Commission Role in the Development of Securities Market Professionals
SRC Rule 31.2	Trading Limited to Listed Securities and Exchanges Registered under the Code
SRC Rule 32.2(a)	Best Execution Rule
SRC Rule 34.1	Segregation of Broker Dealer Functions, Practices
SRC Rule 39.1	Registration, Responsibilities and Oversight of Self-Regulatory Organization
SRC Rule 40.3	Commission Review Procedures
SRC Rule 40.4	Commission Directions Regarding Rulemaking
SRC Rule 40.5	Commission Powers Over Exchanges, Clearing Agencies and Self Regulatory Organizations
SRC Rule 48.1	Margin
SRC Rule 49.1*	Restrictions on Borrowing by Member, Brokers, and Dealers
(*Amended by SEC MC 16 [2004] RBCA for Brokers Dealers)	
SRC Rule 49.2	Customer Protection Reserves and Custody of Securities
SRC Rule 52.1	Accounts and Records, Reports, Examinations of Exchanges, Members and Others

Section 22. Unlawful Acts - In the purchase or sale of a security, a broker, dealer, salesman or associated person of broker or dealer shall not:

1. Make representation that his registration or the failure of the Commission to deny or revoke such registration indicates that the Commission has passed upon or approved his financial standing, business and conduct or the merits of any security or transaction or transactions therein.
2. Effect transaction in a security for which he is controlled by, controlling, or under common control with, the issuer of said security unless such information is disclosed to the customer before the completion of the transaction.
3. Provide advice in or recommend the purchase or sale of security that is the subject of a primary or secondary distribution of which he is participating or is otherwise financially interested, or facilitates transaction during the distribution, unless such participation or interest is disclosed to the customer before the completion of the transaction.
4. Effect transaction for a discretionary account, which is excessive in size or frequency in view of the financial resources and character of such account.
5. Effect transaction for a discretionary account unless immediately after effecting such transaction he records such transaction which shall include, among others, the name of such customer, name, amount and price of the security, and the date and time when such transaction took place.
6. Make representation to a customer that the price of the security being quoted is "at the market" or at a price related to the market price, unless he knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that a market for such security exists other than that made, created, or controlled by him, or by any person for whom he is acting or with whom he is associated in the distribution, or by any person controlled by, controlling or under common control with him.

Section 23. Other Prohibited Acts -

- A. A dealer shall not:

1. Deal with non-qualified investor except through the broker of said non-qualified investor.
2. Deal with another dealer, broker or qualified investor unless he has exerted reasonable effort to determine that such other dealer or broker is authorized to participate in an OTC market or the investor is indeed qualified to trade in the OTC market in accordance with these rules.

A dealer shall include in his Written Supervisory Procedures (WSP) the steps and/or activities that will be undertaken by the dealer relative to the determination process required in this paragraph.

- B. A broker shall not:

1. Accept a non-qualified investor as his customer unless he has determined and confirmed to the investor that the OTC market and the securities traded therein in general are suitable to the investor.
2. Publish or accept for publication a quotation from a non-qualified investor who is his customer unless he has determined and confirmed to the customer that the security for which the investor expresses an interest to buy or sell is suitable to the customer.

A broker shall include in his WSP the steps and/or activities that will be undertaken by the broker relative to the determination and confirmation process required in this paragraph.

Section 24. Penalties -

- A. Any person who violates any provision of these rules shall be penalized as follows:

FIRST VIOLATION: For broker or dealer For a salesman or associated person Other person	A minimum of Php 100,000.00 A minimum of Php 50,000.00 A minimum of Php 10,000.00
SECOND VIOLATION: For broker or dealer For a salesman or associated person Other person	A minimum of Php 150,000.00 A minimum of Php 75,000.00 A minimum of Php 25,000.00
THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS: For broker or dealer For a salesman or associated person Other person	A minimum of Php 200,000.00 A minimum of Php 100,000.00 A minimum of Php 50,000.00

- B. In addition to the fines above, the Commission may limit the activities of any person, suspend or revoke his registration.

Section 25. Transitory Provisions -

- A. For Dealer With Existing Registration As GSED:

1. A dealer in government securities with existing registration as GSED may continue trading in government securities in an OTC market; *Provided*, that said dealer shall file an amendment to his registration in accordance with the requirements of these rules and the procedures prescribed by the Commission, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.
2. A dealer who fails to file an amendment to his registration as

GSED within the prescribed period and continues to trade government securities shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly.

3. An application for amendment that does not conform to the procedures and requirements of the Commission shall be considered as not having been filed at all.

- B. For Dealer Transacting With Non-Qualified Investors:

1. Notwithstanding Section 7 (C) of these rules, a person with existing registration as dealer or GSED may continue to deal with non-qualified investor in an OTC market for a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of these rules; *Provided*, that said dealer shall file an amendment to his registration in accordance with the requirements of these rules and the procedures prescribed by the Commission, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.
2. A dealer who fails to file an amendment to his registration within the prescribed period and continues to trade in government and proprietary securities like club shares with non-qualified investor shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly.
3. After one (1) year from the effectivity of these rules, a dealer shall not deal with non-qualified investor in an OTC market except through the broker of said non-qualified investor unless the Commission rules otherwise, which ruling shall be contingent, among others, on the operation of the central trade reporting system and the establishment of adequate safeguards to protect investors and the public interest.

- C. For Broker With Existing Registration To Act As Broker In Government Securities:

1. A broker with existing registration that allows him to act as broker in government securities may continue acting as a broker in said securities in an OTC market; *Provided*, that said broker shall file an amendment to his registration in accordance with the requirements of these rules and the procedures prescribed by the Commission, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.
2. A broker who fails to file an amendment within the prescribed period and continues to trade government securities shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly.
3. An application for amendment that does not conform to the procedures and requirements of the Commission shall be considered as not having been filed at all.

- D. For Broker or Dealer With Existing Registration To Act As Broker or Dealer in Proprietary Securities:

1. A broker or dealer with existing registration that specifies that he shall act as broker or dealer in proprietary securities like club shares may continue acting as a broker or dealer in proprietary securities in an OTC market; *Provided*, that said broker or dealer shall file an amendment to his registration in accordance with the requirements of these rules and the procedures prescribed by the Commission, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.
2. A broker or dealer who fails to file an amendment within the prescribed period and continues to trade in proprietary securities shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly.
3. An application for amendment that does not conform to the procedures and requirements of the Commission shall be considered as not having been filed at all.

- E. Registration of Salesmen and Associated Persons of Broker or Dealer:

1. A salesman or associated person of broker or dealer with existing registration may continue acting as such in an OTC market; *Provided*, that the broker or dealer to which he is affiliated shall file an amendment to his registration that he shall act as such in an OTC market in accordance with the requirements of these rules and the procedures prescribed by the Commission, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.
2. For this purpose, the broker or dealer concerned shall ensure that the terms and conditions for registration of salesman and associated person such as education, training and examination and other requirements under SRC Rule 28.1 (4) are complied with.
3. After one (1) year from the effectivity of these rules, a broker or dealer who fails to cause the registration of a person but allows such person to act as his salesman or associated person in an OTC market shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly. Similarly, after the lapse of aforesaid one (1) year period, an unregistered person who acts as salesman or associated person of broker or dealer in an OTC market shall be considered in violation of Section 32 of the SRC and shall be penalized accordingly.

- F. Registration of SRO To Govern The OTC Market:

1. Within one (1) year from the effectivity of these rules, brokers and dealers in the OTC market shall be members of an SRO. The brokers, dealers, salesmen or associated persons of broker and/or dealer may form and cause the registration of an SRO which shall regulate and supervise the activities of such members of the SRO.
2. The brokers, dealers, salesmen or associated persons of brokers or dealers seeking registration to participate in an OTC market shall also attach to their application for registration an Undertaking that they commit to join or form an SRO which shall regulate and supervise the activities of the members of SRO participating in an OTC market.

- G. Submission of Quotation Systems:

The brokers or dealers concerned shall submit to the Commission for notation a description of their quotation systems and other requirements mentioned in Section 10 of these rules, within forty five (45) days from the effectivity of these rules.

- H. Central Trade Reporting System:

1. Trading participants of an Exchange who are currently reporting done trades on a security on such Exchange shall continue reporting such done trades to the Exchange in accordance with rules of the Exchange.
2. If after six (6) months from the effectivity of these OTC Rules, a central trade reporting system is not yet in place, the Commission may designate an existing Exchange to act as the central trade reporting system for a security that is traded in an OTC market. The broker or dealer or group of brokers and/or dealers operating the quotation system shall be responsible for the cost attendant to said said reporting activity. The Exchange shall be allowed to charge a reasonable amount for services provided hereunder based on a cost recovery approach. In case the Exchange generates revenue from the reported data, it shall return part of the profit to reporting broker or dealer or group of brokers and/or dealers based on fair and equitable allocation plan which shall be approved by the Commission.
3. On the first six (6) months of the operation of the central trade reporting system, a broker or dealer shall report the trade details of done transactions to such system not later than fifteen (15) minutes from execution of transaction. Thereafter, the reporting period shall be as that prescribed by the Commission or the operator of the system but in no case be more than fifteen (15) minutes from execution of transaction.

- I. Submission of Implementation Plan

Brokers and dealers who intend to participate in the OTC market shall submit to the Commission their respective implementation plans specifying the definite steps to be done and schedule to comply with the requirements herein such as but not limited to: the training and accreditation program for the salesmen and associated persons of brokers or dealers in the OTC market, compliance with the manner by which the Best Execution Rule is to be achieved, the manner of reporting trade details of done transactions, and the concrete steps to be taken towards joining or forming an SRO which shall regulate and supervise the activities of the SRO members participating in the OTC market.

The implementation plan shall be submitted within thirty (30) days from the date a broker or dealer concerned filed his application for registration or amendment of his current registration wherein he indicated his intention to participate in the OTC market.

- J. Compliance With Other Provisions of IRR

All the applicable provisions in the IRR of the SRC shall be complied with during the transition period.

Section 26. Dispute Resolution - The participants in the OTC market and other persons involved therein shall incorporate in their client agreement, participation agreement or any other suitable agreement provisions for prompt resolution of any dispute that may arise from the implementation of said agreement.

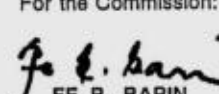
Section 27. Separability Clause - Should any provision herein be subsequently declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity or legality of other provisions.

Section 28. Repealing Clause - All rules and regulations or any part or provisions thereof, inconsistent with these rules or any part or provision thereof are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 29. Effectivity - These rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of last publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, October 27, 2006.

For the Commission:


FE B. BARIN
Chairperson



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "FAIR
ELECTION ACT", IN RE-
LATION TO THE MAY
14, 2007 SYNCHRO-
NIZED NATIONAL AND
LOCAL ELECTIONS.

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

and/or coalition thereof.

The authority of any person to incur election expenditures for or on behalf of any candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof shall be in writing, signed by the candidate or treasurer of the political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof and shall state the expenditures so authorized and the full name and exact address of the person so designated.

Sec. 9. Report of Contractors or Business Firms. - Every printer, manufacturer, seller or other person or firm to whom an election expenditure is made, shall, within thirty (30) days after the date of the election, file with the office of the EO of the city/municipality where the printer, manufacturer, seller or other person or firm has his business, a report setting forth the following:

1. The full name and exact address of every candidate, treasurer of a political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof, or other person incurring such expenditure;
2. The nature or purpose of each expenditure;
3. The date and costs thereof; and
4. Such other particulars as the Commission may require.

The report shall be signed and sworn to by the contractor or dealer, or, in the case of a business firm or association, by its president or general manager. Said report shall likewise be submitted in digital form, Excel format. (See Annex "A" for sample form)

It shall be the duty of such person or firm to whom an election expenditure is made to require every person making an expenditure for and in behalf of a political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof, and *bona fide* candidate to present and submit a written authority to incur such electoral expenditure, and to keep and preserve at its place of business, subject to inspection by the Commission or its authorized representatives, copies of such written authority, contract, vouchers, invoices and other records or documents relative to said expenditure for a period of three (3) years after the date of the election to which they pertain.

It is unlawful for any supplier, contractor or business firm to enter into any contract involving election expenditures with representatives of candidates, political parties, or party-list groups, organizations, and/or coalition thereof without such written authority.

The Commission is hereby vested with visitatorial powers through its duly authorized representatives to look into the books and records of such person or entities to determine compliance with this SEC.

Sec. 10. Lawful Election Propaganda. - Election propaganda, whether on television or cable television, radio, newspaper or any other medium, is hereby allowed for all registered political parties, national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations participating under the party-list system, and for all *bona fide* candidates seeking national and local elective positions subject to the limitation on authorized expenses of candidates, political parties, and party-list groups, organizations, and/or coalition thereof, observation of truth in advertising, and to the supervision and regulation by the COMELEC.

Lawful election propaganda shall include:

- a. Pamphlets, leaflets, cards, decals, stickers or other written or printed materials the size of which does not exceed eight and one-half inches (8 1/2") in width and fourteen inches (14") in length;
- b. Handwritten or printed letters urging voters to vote for or against any particular political party or candidate for public office;
- c. Cloth, paper or cardboard posters, whether framed or posted, with an area not exceeding two feet (2') by three feet (3');
- d. Streamers not exceeding three feet (3') by eight feet (8') in size displayed at the site and on the occasion of a public meeting or rally. Said streamers may be displayed five (5) days before the date of the meeting or rally and shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours after said meeting or rally;
- e. Mobile units, vehicles motorcades of all types, whether engine or manpower driven or animal drawn, with or without sound systems or loud speakers and with or without lights;
- f. Paid advertisements in print or broadcast media subject to the requirements set forth in SEC. 13 hereof and Republic Act 9006;
- g. In headquarters or residences of candidates, lawful election paraphernalia may be displayed, but banners or streamers referred to in paragraph (d) above shall not be allowed;
- h. All other forms of election propaganda not prohibited by the Omnibus Election Code or these rules.

Sec. 11. Prohibited Forms of Election Propaganda. - During the campaign period, it is unlawful:

1. To print, publish, post or distribute any newspaper, newsletter, newsweekly, gazette or magazine advertising, pamphlet, leaflet, card, decal, bumper sticker, poster, comic book, circular, handbill, streamer, sample list of candidates or any published or printed political matter and to air or broadcast any election propaganda by television or radio for or against a candidate or group of candidates to any public office, unless they bear and be identified by the reasonably legible, or audible words "political advertisement paid for," followed by the true and correct name and address of the candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof for whose benefit the election propaganda was printed or aired;
2. To print, publish, broadcast or exhibit any such election propaganda donated or given free of charge by any person or publishing firm or broadcast entity to a candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof without the written acceptance by the said candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization and/or coalition thereof, and unless they bear and be identified by the words "printed free of charge," or "airtime for this broadcast was provided free of charge by," respectively, followed by the true and correct name and address of the said publishing firm or broadcast entity;
3. To show, display or exhibit publicly in a theatre, television station, or any public forum any movie, cinematography or documentary portraying the life or biography of a candidate, or portrayed by an actor or media personality who is himself a candidate;
4. For any newspaper or publication, radio, television or cable television station, or other mass media, or any person making use of the mass media to sell or to give free of charge print space or air time for campaign or election propaganda purposes to any candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, or coalition thereof in excess of the size, duration or frequency authorized by law or these rules;
5. For any radio, television, cable television station, announcer or broadcaster to allow the scheduling of any program, or permit any sponsor to manifestly favor or oppose any candidate, political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof by unduly or repeatedly referring to, or unnecessarily mentioning his name, or including therein said candidate, political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof; and
6. To post, display or exhibit any election campaign or propaganda material outside of authorized common poster areas in public places, or in private without the consent of the owner thereof.

The printing press, printer, or publisher who prints, reproduces or publishes said campaign materials, and the broadcaster, station manager, or owner of the radio or television station who airs or shows the political advertisements, without the required data or in violation of these rules shall be criminally liable with the candidate and further suffer the penalties of suspension or revocation of franchise or permit in accordance with law.

Sec. 12. Petition for Authority to Use Other Election Propaganda. - Any person seeking authority to use other forms of election propaganda not covered by those enumerated in Sec. 10 hereof and not prohibited by law may file with the Commission, through the Clerk of the Commission, a verified petition in eight (8) legible copies, describing the election propaganda sought to be authorized with samples thereof.

Upon receipt of the petition, the Clerk of the Commission shall set it for hearing and shall send notice thereof to the petitioner. On the day following the receipt of the notice of hearing, the petitioner shall cause the publication of the petition, together with the notice of hearing, in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, notifying the Commission of such action.

If the Commission authorizes the use of the requested election propaganda, the authorization shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation within one (1) week after the authorization has been granted.

Sec. 13. Requirements and/or Limitations on the Use of Election Propaganda through Mass Media. - All registered political parties, party-list groups, organizations, and/or coalitions thereof, and *bona fide* candidates shall have equal access to media time and space for their election propaganda during the campaign period subject to the following requirements and/or limitations:

1. Broadcast Election Propaganda

The aggregate duration of air time that a candidate, or registered political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof may use for their broadcast advertisements or election propaganda shall be, as follows:

- a) For candidates/Registered Political parties for a National Election Position

One hundred twenty (120) minutes in television or cable television, and one hundred eighty (180) minutes in radio, for all television or cable television networks, or all

radio stations whether by purchase or donation, wherever located.

- b) For candidates/Registered Political parties for a Local Elective Position

Sixty (60) minutes in television or cable television, and ninety (90) minutes in radio for all television or cable networks, or all radio stations whether by purchase or donation, wherever located.

Provided that election expenses for broadcast election propaganda shall comply with the election expenses limitation provided by law.

Provided, further, that a copy of the broadcast advertisement contract be furnished the Commission, thru the Education and Information Department, before airing said advertisements.

Broadcast stations or entities shall allocate air time equally and impartially, through raffle, to political parties, party-list groups, organizations, and/or coalitions thereof, and *bona fide* candidates subject to the requirements and/or limitations on the use of media time for election propaganda purposes herein provided.

Where feasible, said broadcast stations or entities may provide common but separate time slots for the official candidates or registered political parties and party-list groups, organizations, and/or coalitions thereof, on one hand, and for independent candidates, on the other.

2. Printed or Published Election Propaganda

The maximum size of print advertisements for each candidate, whether for a national or local elective position, or registered political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof, shall be, as follows:

- a) One fourth (1/4) page - in broadsheets; and
- b) One half (1/2) page - in tabloids

Said print advertisement, whether procured by purchase, or given free of charge, shall not be published more than three times a week per newspaper, magazine, or other publication during the campaign period.

3. Common requirements/limitations

- a) Any printed or published, and broadcast election propaganda for or against a candidate or group of candidates to any public office shall bear and be identified by the reasonably legible or audible words "political advertisement paid for," followed by the true and correct name and address of the candidate or party whose benefit the election propaganda was printed or aired;

- b) If the printed or published election propaganda is donated by the publishing firm, or the broadcast election propaganda is given free of charge by the radio, or television or cable television station, it shall bear and be identified by the reasonable legible or audible words "printed free of charge," or "airtime for this broadcast was provided free of charge by," respectively, followed by the true and correct name and address of the said publishing firm or broadcast entity.

- c) For the above purpose, each broadcast entity shall submit a certified true copy of its broadcast logs and certificates of performance for the review and verification of the frequency, date, time and duration of advertisements aired for any candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization and/or coalition thereof to the Commission, through:

- For Broadcast Entities in the NCR

The Education and Information Department (EID) which, in turn shall furnish copies thereof to the Office of the Executive Director and the Law Department of the Commission.

- For Broadcast Entities outside of the NCR

The City/Municipal Election Officer (EO) concerned who, in turn, shall furnish copies thereof to the Education and Information Department of the Commission within five (5) days after the campaign periods.

All broadcast entities shall preserve their broadcast logs for a period of three (3) years from the date of broadcast for production before the Commission whenever required.

Certified true copies of said broadcast logs and certificates of performance shall be submitted, as follows:

1. For Candidates for National Positions:

- 1st report - within the second week of their campaign period;
- 2nd report - within the sixth week of their campaign period;
- 3rd report - within the last week of their campaign period; and
- Last report - within two (2) days before election day.

2. For Candidates for Local Positions:

- 1st report - within the second week of their campaign period;
- 2nd report - within the third week of their campaign period;
- 3rd report - within the last week of their campaign period; and
- Last report - within two (2) days before election day.

Sec. 14. Written Acceptance of Advertising Contract. - Print, broadcast or outdoor advertisements or election propaganda donated to a candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof shall not be printed, published, broadcasted, or exhibited, unless it is accompanied by the written acceptance by said candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof.

Such written acceptance shall be attached to the advertising contract and shall be submitted to the Commission, through the City/Municipal Election Officer (EO) concerned, or in the case of the National Capital Region (NCR), the Education and Information Department.

Sec. 15. Submission of Copies of Advertising Contracts. - Each media entity (print or broadcast) shall submit a copy of its contracts for advertising, promoting or opposing a political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof, or the candidacy of any person for public office within five (5) days after its signing to the Commission, through:

a. For Media Entities in the NCR

- The Education and Information Department (EID) which, in turn, shall furnish copies thereof to the Law Department of the Commission.

b. For Media Entities outside of the NCR

- The City/Municipal Election Officer (EO) concerned who, in turn, shall furnish copies thereof to the Education and Information Department of the Commission within five (5) days after the campaign periods. The EID shall furnish copies thereof to the Law Department of the Commission.

In every case, such advertising contracts shall be signed by the donor, the candidate concerned, or by the duly authorized representative of the political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof.

It shall be the duty of the EID to formally inform media entities that the latter's failure to comply with the mandatory provisions of this SEC. shall be considered an election offense punishable under SEC. 44 of this Resolution.

Sec. 16. Fair and Accurate Reporting. - All members of the media, television, radio, or print shall scrupulously report and interpret the news, taking care not to suppress essential facts or distort the truth by omission or improper emphasis. They shall recognize the duty to air the other side and the duty to correct substantive errors promptly without prejudice to the right of said broadcast entities to air accounts of significant news or newsworthy events and views on matters of public interest.

Sec. 17. No Suspension of Franchise. - No franchise or permit to operate a radio or television station shall be granted or issued, suspended or cancelled during the election period.

Sec. 18. COMELEC Space and Time for Announcement of Candidates. - The Commission shall procure print space and air time as follows:

a. Print Space

The Commission shall, through the Education and Information Department, upon payment of just compensation, procure print space in at least three (3) national newspapers of general circulation wherein candidates for national office can announce their candidacies. Such space shall be allocated free of charge equally and impartially to all candidates for national office on three different calendar days, as follows:

- 1st day - within the first week of the campaign period;
- 2nd day - within the fifth week of the campaign period;
- 3rd day - within the tenth week of the campaign period.

b. Air Time

The Commission shall, through the Education and Information Department, also procure free air time from at least three (3) national television networks and three (3) national radio networks wherein candidates for national office can announce their candidacies.

Said television and radio networks shall provide to COMELEC all airtime including prime time, that is adequate to enable all candidates for national positions to announce their candidacies and programs of government for such number of minutes and at specific time slots as may be determined by the Director IV of the Education and Information Department.

Air time shall be allocated free of charge equally and impartially to all candidates for national office on three (3) different calendar days, as follows:

- 1st day - within the first week of the campaign period;
- 2nd day - within the fifth week of the campaign period;
- 3rd day - within the tenth week of the campaign period.

Each advertisement shall be in the form of a maximum of thirty (30) seconds spot, or in the form of interviews or campaign speeches at time limits to be set by the Commission in consultation with said candidates or the parties;

Cost of production of political advertisement shall be at the expense of the candidate or political party, but the speeches or interviews shall be free

Promulgated 30 November 2006.

RESOLUTION NO. 7767

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9006 provides for the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections through fair election practices, and that for purposes of the May 14, 2007 elections, political advertisements or propaganda for or against any candidate or political party shall be published or broadcast through mass media;

WHEREAS, SEC. 6.4 of said Act directs the Commission on Elections to supervise the use and employment of press, radio and television facilities insofar as the placement of political advertisements is concerned so as to give candidates equal opportunities under equal circumstances to make known their qualifications and stand on public issues;

WHEREAS, SEC. 13 thereof requires the Commission to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act Nos. 6646, 7166, 9006 and other related laws has **RESOLVED** to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates the following rules and regulations implementing the Fair Election Act.

SECTION 1. Definitions. - As used in this resolution:

1. The term "election campaign" or "partisan political activity" refers to any act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office which shall include any of the following:
 - a. Forming organizations, associations, clubs, committees or other groups of persons for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate;
 - b. Holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades or other similar assemblies for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign or propaganda for or against a candidate;
 - c. Making speeches, announcements or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate for public office;
 - d. Publishing or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or
 - e. Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against any candidate.
2. The term "candidate" refers to any person aspiring for or seeking an elective public office who has filed his certificate of candidacy, or any registered national, regional, or sectoral party, organization or coalition thereof that has filed a manifestation to participate under the party-list system.
3. The term "political advertisement" refers to any matter broadcasted, published, printed, or exhibited which is intended to draw the attention of the public or a segment thereof to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office. In the broadcast media, political advertisements may take the form of spots, guestings in TV shows and radio programs, live or taped announcements, teasers, and other forms of advertising messages or announcements used by commercial advertisers.
4. The term "media practitioner" refers to a person who is not employed by a media entity but performs similar functions or has control over what is printed or broadcasted such as a talent or a block timer.
5. The term "election survey" refers to the measurement of opinions and perceptions of the voters as regards a candidate's popularity, qualifications, platforms or matters of public discussion in relation to the election, including voters' preference for candidates or publicly discussed issues during the campaign period.
6. The term "exit polls" refers to a species of election survey conducted by a qualified individual or a group of individuals for the purpose of determining the probable result of an election by confidentially asking randomly selected voters for the names of candidates they have voted for, immediately after they have officially cast their ballots.

Sec. 2. Nomination and Selection of Official Candidates. - No political convention or meeting for the nomination or selection of the official candidates of any political party or organization or political groups or coalitions thereof shall be held, nor shall any election campaign or partisan political activity for the purpose of enhancing the chances of aspirants for nomination for candidacy to a public office by a political party, party-list group, organization and/or coalition thereof, be conducted earlier than November 30, 2006.

Sec. 3. Campaign Periods. - The campaign periods for the May 14, 2007 elections shall be:

1. February 13 to May 12, 2007 for the election of Senators and Party-List Representatives; and
2. March 30 to May 12, 2007 for the election of members of the House of Representatives and elective provincial, city and municipal officials.

Sec. 4. Prohibited Campaign. - It is unlawful for any person, or for any political party, or association of persons to engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity outside of the campaign periods.

Any election campaign or partisan political activity is prohibited on April 5, 2007 (Maundy Thursday), April 6, 2007 (Good Friday), May 13 (day before election day) and May 14, 2007 (election day).

Sec. 5. Acts Not Considered Election Campaign or Partisan Political Activity. - The following acts shall not be considered as part of prohibited campaign even if done outside of the campaign period:

1. Any of the acts enumerated in SEC. 1 (1) hereof if performed for the purpose of enhancing the chances of aspirants for nomination as official candidates of any political party, organization or coalition; and
2. Public expression of opinions or discussions of issues in the forthcoming election or on attributes of or criticisms against probable candidates proposed to be nominated as official candidates in a forthcoming convention of a political party, organization, and/or coalition thereof.

Sec. 6. Intervention of Foreigners. - It is unlawful for any foreigner, whether juridical or natural person, to aid any candidate, or political party, organization or coalition, directly or indirectly, or to take part in, or influence in any manner, any election, or to contribute or make any expenditure in connection with any election campaign or partisan political activity.

Sec. 7. Authorized Expenses of Candidates and Political Parties. - The aggregate amount that a candidate or registered political party may spend for election campaign shall be as follows:

1. For candidates for President and Vice-President - Ten pesos (P10.00) for every voter;
2. For candidates officially nominated by Political Parties, and officially recognized as such by the Commission - Three Pesos (P3.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency where they filed their certificate of candidacy;
3. For Independent Candidates and Parties/Organizations/Coalitions participating under the Party-List System - Five Pesos (P5.00) for every such voter. For the purpose of determining authorized expenses of candidates, an independent candidate shall be that recognized as such by the Commission *en banc* in an appropriate resolution; and
4. For Political Parties/Organizations/Coalitions - Five pesos (P5.00) for every voter currently registered in the constituency or constituencies where they have official candidates.

Sec. 8. Persons Authorized to Incur Election Expenditures. - No person, except the candidate, the treasurer of a political party, party-list group, organization, and/or coalition thereof, or any person authorized by said candidate or treasurer, shall make any expenditure in support of or in opposition to any candidate, political party, or party-list group, organization,

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Nokia holds thanksgiving event for Globe



NOKIA'S Sandeep Khanna, Ricci Javier, Luanne Erni with Globe's Vicki Tan-Yao.



BLUE Avelino, GMA head with Market! Market! and Rockwell heads.

COOPERATION, DEDICATION, AND FOCUS are some of the key elements that result to succeeding in every endeavor. A company's success not only lies in how it makes great business decisions but also in the partners they work with.

Nokia recently held an appreciation night for the continuous support of Globe Telecom's sales channels in the Greater Manila Area (GMA). Held in Aruba Bar and Restaurant in Metrowalk, Ortigas Center, the event was Nokia's way of thanking Globe's GMA sales channels for always supporting its joint projects and was also an opportunity for the entire Nokia team to be introduced to Globe.

Since its inception in the Philippines, Nokia has worked hand in hand with Globe Telecom and its sales channels for its various promotions through its Globe business centers and dealers nationwide.

Leading the Globe team during the event was Blue Avelino, regional business head of GMA. Also present during the appreciation night were representatives from the Globe Telecom business centers, dealer sales and trade marketing.

It was a night of good food and drinks, with entertainment provided by the Powerhouse Band.

All business center heads were individually called to the stage to receive their respective plaques from Nokia which were awarded by Jill Lizardo, account manager for Globe and Joanne Racoma, national account manager. Nokia premium items were also given to the guests while Joanna Panopio of Globe Mall of Asia Business Center won a Nokia N73 in the raffle.



RONALD Potenciano of Robinsons Metro East and Jane Baldivia.



RENE Laja of Hub Greenhills, Maricel Laja of GTBC Megamall.



GLOBE'S Abby Garcia, Mae Ann Bartolome and Mich Estandarte.



WIMPY Siongco, Raquel Suaverdez and Mavic Leonardo.



JIM Friginal of GTBC Park Square and Alan Pena of GTBC SM Mall of Asia.

Nesvita Wellness Tour goes to malls nationwide

AFTER ITS SUCCESSFUL WELLNESS TOUR in major offices in Metro Manila, Nesvita brought its Wellness campaign to the malls: Ayala Center in Cebu, Gaisano Mall in Davao, and Glorietta in Makati. Around 20,000 people took advantage of the free consultation given by a team of nutritionists. The Nesvita Wellness booths offered free blood pressure check-up, body mass index, and calcium absorption consultation to mall goers who visited the booths. Some of the mall tour participants found out that they are becoming overweight and lack exercise.

Joanne, a 24-year-old employee, thinks that the Nesvita Wellness Tour "is a good program that benefits a lot of people." She availed of a free massage that relaxed her muscle tensions brought about by work-related activities.

Most of the booth visitors drink milk, though not regularly. For housewife Arbie, she never realized that "milk could taste this good" sampling Nesvita Non-Fat Milk and

Nesvita Cereal Milk Drink from the Wellness Tour. With her young toddler in tow, Arbie couldn't help but line up again for another round of Nesvita drink.

Most of the Wellness visitors, apart from moms and office employees, were students and young professionals. Seventeen-year old Jessalyn Manam waited for her turn at the Body Shop booth for a free makeover after visiting other booths at the Nesvita Wellness Tour. "To be fit, I realized I have to take care of myself inside and out. Eating food that are low in fat and drinking milk are important. Even at an early age, I have to start being health conscious," she says.

Ligaya was just too happy to get a free massage and consultation while strolling at the mall. She revealed that even at 73 years of age, she still exercises to stay healthy.

People interested to learn about living a healthier lifestyle can still avail of more information on the Nestlé Wellness Program by contacting Nestlé's consumer services at 898-0061.

STI, ETELEcare sign MOU for call center agent course

Leading US-based call center firm eTelecare Global Solutions Inc signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently with STI, one of the country's largest network of ICT-centered colleges, to develop a curriculum and courseware for a Call Center Agent Course. The MOU also seeks to provide a venue for the on-the-job training of STI students who are enrolled in such course. For its part, eTelecare will assist STI in developing a Call Center Agent Course by sharing industry knowledge and collaborating on training materials and content. The call center firm will also train and certify 10 STI trainers who meet its trainers' profile and standard of qualifications, skills and competencies. The STI-eTelecare Call Center Agent Course will be offered at selected STI schools nationwide. Shown in photo during the MOU signing are from right: Derrick Latreille, eTelecare vice president for global training; Vivek Padmanabhan, eTelecare Vice President for global shared ser-



vices; Monica Jacob, STI president and chief executive officer and Peter Fernandez, STI executive vice president and chief operating officer.



SENATOR ROXAS LAUDS MANG INASAL

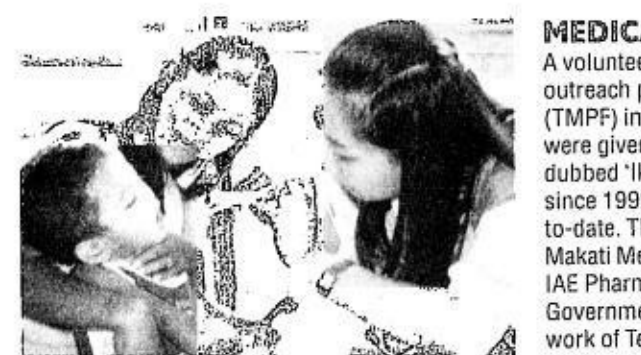
Senator Mar Roxas (right) congratulated Edgar Sia II (left), owner of the growing Mang Inasal restaurant chain, during his visit to the new Mang Inasal outlet at the SM Mall of Asia. Senator Roxas has advocated Pinoy entrepreneurship since his term as DTI Secretary, and hoped that other local entrepreneurs are inspired by the success of home-grown chains like Mang Inasal. Just recently, Mang Inasal opened their 23rd branch at the ground floor of Gaisano Kabankalan City. For more inquiries about Mang Inasal, as well as franchising opportunities, visit our website at www.manginasal.com. See you at Mang Inasal outlets. The Home of Pinoy Style Barbeque.



1ST ASIA-PACIFIC ACTION ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Philippines was among the 15 nations represented in the four-day conference on the human resources for health (HRH) crisis held in Thailand recently. The goal of the forum was to create a platform for regional members and global partners to find short and long term developmental solutions for a better health workforce system in the region and to have the health systems more capable of responding to old and new challenges like the health Millennium Development Goals. The common key problems identified in the region include external migration of skilled health workers and

in-country unequal distribution of essential health workforce. The Philippine Department of Health presented its 25-year master plan and was lauded as a model solution by conference participants. The Philippine delegation was composed of (from left) Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go of the Zuellig Foundation, professor Marilyn Lorenzo of the National Institute of Health, UP Manila; former Philippine health secretary and current director of HRH of the World Health Organization Dr. Manuel Dayrit, the Department of Health's Dr. Rodel Nodora, and HRH director Dr. Kenneth Ronquillo.



MEDICAL AND DENTAL OUTREACH

A volunteer doctor attends to a child during the recent medical and dental outreach program organized by the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF) in Barangay Sinalhan, Santa Rosa City, Laguna. Over 1,500 patients were given free direct healthcare services and medicine during the activity dubbed "Ikaw, Ako at ang Toyota, Sa Kalusugan Sama-Sama." Held regularly since 1992, the outreach program has benefited more than 80,000 patients to-date. The medical and dental mission is a collaborative effort among Makati Medical Center, Makati Dental Society, Drugmakers Laboratories, IAE Pharmaceuticals, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, the Santa Rosa City Government, TMPF scholars, and TMP volunteers through the Toyota Network of Tenderhearted Employee-Servers.

Campaign against trafficking in persons

A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS will be launched in Baguio City as it hosts the First Northern Luzon Roadshow Campaign against Human Trafficking. Following the success of the roadshow campaigns in major cities and provinces of Visayas and Mindanao, the Filipino Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons (FIAT) now targets trafficking hotspots in Luzon to focus national attention to the problem and mobilize support of the public and key national and local institutions. The campaign, which will run from Dec. 4 to 7, includes a series of week-long activities designed to build awareness of the public through information, education and communication (IEC) campaign, to establish and strengthen local mechanisms to fight human trafficking, and to build capacities,

knowledge and skills of law enforcers, prosecutors and service providers in order to protect victims and convict human traffickers. Supported by the Rule of Law Effectiveness Project of USAID, the campaign is a fitting support to Republic Act 9208 known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2003, which stipulates provisions of aid to victims of trafficking and the organization of Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking tasked to monitor the implementation of the law. With this premise at hand, FIAT has organized a sturdy steering committee to push through with the campaign. Baguio City has been identified as a trafficking hotspot, cited as a destination of victims from other provinces, transit area and source for cross border trafficking. Other roadshow stops are Legaspi City and Southern Luzon.



6CYCLEMIND GETS GOLD RECORD AWARD

6Cyclemind, the country's fast-rising rock band received the Gold Record Award from Sony-BMG last Sunday, Nov. 5, during the launching of Tanduay Rhum T-5 new advertising campaign in GMA7 'SOP' and ABS-CBN 'ASAP' noontime TV shows. Award plaques were presented to the band members by Messrs. Narciso Chan, Sony-BMG sales and marketing director, and Vic Valenciano, Sony-BMG A&R director for 6Cyclemind's 'Panorama' album. Lead vocalist Ney Dimaculangan expressed gratitude to Sony-BMG for promoting their album and to all young music lovers for patronizing their songs. "We would like to assure our fans that 6Cyclemind will always come up with music that will suit the taste of the young generation," Ney added. Because of

the popularity of 6Cyclemind among young drinkers, Tanduay Management contracted the rockband to perform in Tanduay Rhum T5 latest advertising campaign and sing their hit song 'Sige' in the commercials. 6Cyclemind is composed of Ney Dimaculangan, vocals; Chuck Isidro, guitar; Rye Sarmiento, guitar; Tutti Caringal, drums; and Bobby Cañamo, bass. Shown during the hand over of the Gold Record Award for 6Cyclemind are (from left): Geoff Eigenman, 'ASAP' host; Ney Dimaculangan, 6Cyclemind vocalist; Narciso Chan, Sony-BMG sales director; Lucky Manzano, 'ASAP' co-host; Vic Valenciano, Sony-BMG sales A&R director; Chuck Isidro, guitar; Rye Sarmiento, guitar; Tutti Caringal, drums; Bobby Cañamo, bass.

Rural banks go state-of-the-art with GCash

MOBILE COMMERCE IS FAST BECOMING a reality in the countryside, thanks to the alliance forged among the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), the Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) Program of USAID, and Globe Telecom's wholly-owned subsidiary, GXchange Inc (GXI). As a result, GCash has been adopted as the mobile e-commerce solution of choice by the RBAP's members across the country.

At the 2006 Rural Bankers Special General Membership Meeting and National Management Conference held yesterday at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Manila, the conference's keynote speaker, Sen. Edgardo Angara, challenged the rural banks to progress and serve as "community banks". In line with this challenge, GXI president Rizza Maniego-Eala shared how rural banks can capitalize on the GCash platform to facilitate the delivery of domestic and international remittances to the community more efficiently and at a much lower

cost. Her speech was met with rousing applause, followed by the awarding of a special plaque of recognition from the Rural Bankers Research and Development Foundation (RBRDF), which recognized GXI for its groundbreaking efforts in bringing m-commerce to the provinces.

"GXchange's partnership with RBAP has allowed rural banks to enter a new frontier in banking services as they use state-of-the-art technology to offer new banking products and services, serve new markets, increase revenue, and improve efficiency. These initiatives concretely demonstrate GXchange's commitment to advance the vital role of rural banks as economic outposts in the countryside," said RBRDF chair Gen. William K. Hotchkiss III.

In appreciation for the support given by RBAP and MABS, GXI commended seven of its rural bank partners for successfully promoting GCash in their constituent areas. GM-Bank Agri-Business Rural Bank,

Greenbank of Caraga, 1st Valley Bank, PR Bank, Bank Victorias, and Bangko Luzon Inc were the first to adopt GCash and also played an instrumental role in promoting GCash as an enabler in allowing rural folk to gain access to financial services.

"We're grateful to these partner banks in helping us establish GCash as a convenient financial solution that allows greater public access to commercial and financial transactions towards the ultimate goal of sustained national growth," said Maniego-Eala as she handed out the plaques of appreciation. GXI also welcomed twelve new banking partners into its growing roster.

The real-time capabilities and transactional mobility of GCash make it an ideal mobile commerce channel for rural banks and their clients, revolutionizing the country's mobile economy and marking yet another milestone in Globe's long-standing tradition of industry excellence and innovation.



PLDT, AUCTION.PH CONTRACT SIGNING

PLDT and Auction.ph Corp. recently inked a partnership for the provisioning of broadband and Internet services to provide efficient and credible online trading system for Auction.ph's growing clientele. It provides online market services where businesses and consumers sell and buy, either through auction or outright purchase. Seated from left are: Nerissa Ramos, PLDT FVP and head of corporate business solutions; Ernesto Alberto, PLDT SVP and head of corporate business group; Joshua Cho, Auction.ph

Corp vice chair; and Mia Esquerra, Auction.ph Corp VP of Finance. Standing from left are: Noel Manalastas, PLDT relationship manager; Jane Callilung, PLDT senior relationship manager; Jessica Powell, ePLDT sales head; Helen Marquez, ePLDT FVP and COO; Cesar Enriquez, PLDT FVP and corporate business operations officer; Hazel Tacderas, ePLDT partner specialist; Albert Kim, Auction.ph Corp marketing director; and Jericho Veloso, Auction.ph Corp research and development manager.

Panasonic launches newest innovations and technology

PANASONIC INTRODUCED ITS LINE OF NEW generation products at Philconstruct 2006 exhibition held at the World Trade Center on Nov. 8 to 11.

Launched were flat panel displays, a line of intelligent analog, hybrid, and IP video surveillance cameras, security systems, conference systems, projectors, colored copiers, pabx systems, ventilating fans, air moving equipment, multimedia LCD projectors, and security systems. These products will specifically benefit the hotel, restaurant, call center, bank, construction, manufacturing and service industries.

Panasonic's new line of network cameras are designed to provide users with zero distance management to boost efficiency, improve communications, and reduce cost. The network cameras have "color night view mode" which automatically adjusts the brightness, and is equipped with a CCD sensor and smooth motion capture at 30 frames per second. They come with an SD memory card recording that can save large quantity of images without using a net-

work.

Panasonic's flat panel displays have image quality and versatility and are available in screen sizes of 32 to 65 inches. They have unmatched expandability and triple function slots.

Panasonic's hybrid IP-PBX systems are the intelligent business solutions for various businesses especially call centers. Using VOIP gateway, the phone converts telephone signals into IP packets, making it possible for one to use VOIP technology even with existing telephone units.

Panasonic's Panaboard effectively takes notes, thereby improving greatly presentations and meetings. It has an all-in-one slim design and is best used for seminars, meetings, brainstorming, scheduling, training and copying charts and graphs. It has a document manager that makes it easy to file and distribute the meeting minutes.

For whatever purpose and whatever industry, Panasonic's new generation products and technologies will always have a solution to make the workplace more effective, productive and cost-effective.



GXCHANGE INC (GXI) honors its GCash banking partners (standing, from left): Ninfa Planta, Bank Victorias; Teri David-Carlos, Bank of Florida; Mitch Gomez, GM Bank; Ives Nice, Rang-ay Bank; Abeling Samson, Bangko Luzon; Carlos Pasion, PR Bank; Marty Manguera, Upland Rural

Bank of Dalaguete; Lea Yamballa, Agribusiness Bank; and Gen. Charles Hotchkiss, Cantilan Bank. Observing the proceedings are (seated, from left): RBRDF chair (Ret.) Gen. William Hotchkiss III, GXI president Rizza Maniego-Eala, and former RBAP president Senen Glorioso.

DISTRIBUTOR OF BACCHUS ENERGY DRINK

Dong-A Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, the biggest and most respected pharmaceutical company in Korea formally re-appointed Dong-A Pharma Phils Inc as its exclusive distributor for its flagship product, Bacchus Energy Drink, in the Philippines. Signing in behalf of Dong-A Korea is Jae Suk Kang, director for health care and OTC division, while Amen C. Say, president and CEO, signed for Dong-A Pharma Philippines. Bacchus Energy Drink is now one of the leading energy drink brands in the local market and.



Avon Fashions intimate apparel shine at Bedazzled show

UNDERGARMENTS IN RICH, BOLD TONES, with fresh-looking prints, and luxurious embellishments are the style canons for the fashionable and dynamic woman.

The no. 1 intimate apparel brand of Filipinas, Avon Fashions has unveiled the latest looks in women's fashion underwear. The new pieces for the holiday season and beyond premiered recently at the Bedazzled fashion show at The Loft in Rockwell Center.

Featuring Avon Fashions models Elizabeth Codrington and Bea Candaza along with the country's top runway mannequins like Isabel Rocas, Valerie De Los Santos and Bianca Valerio, Bedazzled showcased Avon Fashions' superior-fitting quality undergarments in a glittering parade of soft fabrics, deep and vivid colors, lace, ribbons, interesting prints and rich textures. All of these came together under the creative supervision of top fashion director Robbie Carmona.

"It is indeed a very exciting time for us," says Cherry Tomeldan-McCaffrey, Avon Southeast Asia Cluster category head for fashion and home, "The Philippines has always been one of our strongest markets in Asia. An event like this showcases our commitment and appreciation for a country where there are hundreds of thousands of Avon Ladies working hard to provide the best products and service to millions of Filipinas."

Avon's top executives, the fashion media, style watchers and the chic set gathered to get the first glimpse of the trendsetting new brassieres, panties, camisoles and other underwear sets and separates.

"For Avon, functionality goes with fashion," explains McCaffrey, "The latest designs allow women to make a personal statement as they choose among the various cuts, colors and styles. Avon Fashions gives them superior-fitting, trendy, and high quality options at friendly prices."

Apart from those on the runway, beauties and former Avon Fashions models Patti Betita, Lala Flores and Abbigale Arenas were also invited. They were the faces of past Avon Fashions campaigns which were compiled in a commemorative gallery at the said venue.

In the Philippines, Avon Fashions is currently the leading brand for women's intimate apparel, selling over 12 million brassieres in one year.

Avon Fashions' Holiday 2006 collection pays homage to an Asian woman's natural curves, offering women of all ages, sizes, skin tone, and even cup sizes something fabulous to wear as their second skin.

Avon Fashions is available through the Avon Ladies nationwide. Don't have an Avon Lady yet? Call 864-AVON (2866) or e-mail helpdesk.ph@avon.com.

DONATION TO ANAHAWAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

A brand new 75KVA generator was recently donated by Mix Plant Inc through the LRP Foundation to the Anahawan District Hospital (ADH) in Anahawan Southern Leyte, represented by architect Manny Minana, son of Anahawan Municipal Mayor Jose Ma. Minana, Sr. The ADH was the main medical facility taking care of most of the casualties after the massive landslide that shook St. Bernard in Southern Leyte last April 2006. This donation will allow the ADH to serve over 100,000 people in six municipalities in



Southern Leyte. Shown are (from left) LRP Foundation project manager Manny Chanco III, Mix Plant Inc vice president Edith de Guzman, architect Manny Minana and LRP Foundation chair Macario S. Rufino.

MAPUA HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEES FOR 2006

Eleven graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology High School were recently named as the Distinguished Alumni Awardees for this year. Eight of the 11 awardees attended the first meeting convened recently at the offices of CD Castro Consultancy Inc (CDCCI) at The Enterprise Center in Makati City and hosted by MIT HS AAI past president Cesar (Bobby) Castro (standing, in barong at the extreme right). The meeting was also attended by the officers of the alumni organization led by its president, lawyer Mona Lisa A. Buencamino, (seated second from the left). Other officers in the meeting were: Col. Rodolph G. Cannu, vice president (third from the right), Lery Leuterio-Lacson, secretary, (seated in the middle), Dr. Luz Kwong,

treasurer and Arturo Mallari, MIT HS AAI adviser and a past president. Also seated are: Evelyn Santos and Reby Trinidad. The awardees are (standing from left): Reynaldo C. Yap, Abelardo v. Cortez, engineer Cesar Olbes Villegas, engineer Richard R. Aspillaga, Melchor R. Dizon, Augusto F. Ang I, Winston Rochel Limbo Galang, and Eduardo M. Trinidad. Awardees not able to attend meeting and are not in the photo are: Dr. Conrado G. Manalad, Jr., engineer and consultant Rene S. Santiago, and Miguel Tanquint. The Distinguished Alumni Awardees were honored during their 30th Grand Alumni Homecoming of all Mapua High School graduates last Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Clamshell Pavilion 2 in Intramuros, Manila.



2ND CUP AWARD FOR THE ASTRA GROUP INC

Last year's winner won again this year as the Outstanding Distributor of Audio Systems Technologies in the recently concluded 17th Annual National Consumers Award (Anca) given by the prestigious Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP). The Astra Group Inc, exclusive distributor in the Philippines of Xtreme Magic Sing, received its trophy in grand fashion last October from the officers of the Consumers

Union of the Philippines. Shown in photo (from left) are: lawyer Rodel Taton, CUP legal counsel, Joyce Del Pilar and Henny Fabian of the Astra Group, Lily Nicolas, Sec. Gen. of CUP, Amb. Raul Goco, chair of the board of governors of CUP, Orville Roque of the Astra Group, lawyer Quirino A. Marquez, CUP president, Rev. Sonia Y. Lim, EVP of CUP, lawyer Stephen Arceno, CUP governor and Alex Flores, CUP governor.

Michael V is back with The Bubble G Anthology

MICHAEL V IS BACK AND BETTER WITH AN exclusive break out video/audio album dubbed "The Bubble G Anthology". This ten-track collection from GMA Records contains well-loved hits with that distinct Bitoy twist.

Flagship song and carrier single "Hindi Ako Bakla" has been receiving considerable airplay in music channels and radio stations. The danceable ditty focuses on Tom Yam, pretending to be straight despite the nasty rumors about his orientation. But the entertaining video gives him away when he evolves into a full-blown "woman" (with the gaudy red outfit) as he confirms aloud in the end.

The creative direction of "The Bubble G Anthology" inclines on the usual spoof themes of

gender confusion, physical flaws, and food but still done in an amiable, humorous manner.

Other noteworthy tracks include the ubiquitous commercial tune "Joy in My Heart", the comical, parodied versions of "Wag Na Wag", "Chaka N'Ya", and "Mamaw!". Additional comical support is provided by guests Ogie Alcasid, Antonio Aquitania, Wendell Ramos, Boy 2 Quizon, Diego, and Maicah.

The DVD version also consists of spoof segments in between tracks to further heighten the entertaining experience.

"The Bubble G Anthology" is released by GMA Records and distributed exclusively by Paragon Music Corp nationwide.

Hands On Manila bags Award of Excellence in regional PR tilt

HANDS ON MANILA'S (HOM) volunteerism awareness campaign recently bagged the Award of Excellence for the Corporate and Public-Not for Profit category in the prestigious Asia Pacific PR Week Awards 2006 held in Hong Kong last week. The campaign, created in partnership with EON The Stakeholder Relations Firm, was the only entry from the Philippines that won an award in what is considered the Oscars of Public Relations in the region. The winning campaign's message is that everyone should make the time to do volunteer community work.

Earlier this year, the HOM Volunteerism Awareness Campaign won the Hands On Network-Dell Innovation Award during the 2006 Hands On Network Leadership Conference held in Boston, USA last March.

HOM's president and chair lawyer Gianna Montinola said these

international awards are a reflection of the innovative and effective approach of the communications campaign. "These awards bring pride and honor to everyone at HOM. They have become a source of inspiration for all of us to work harder at developing active volunteers who can serve as agents of change in our communities," she added.

Since the campaign started in 2006, HOM's volunteer base doubled from 2,671 in 2005 to nearly 4,000 in 2006. The campaign, which is sustained by sheer volunteer effort, also engages the private sector who, through corporate partnerships, provides support to the volunteers programs.

HOM is the first international affiliate of Hands On Network (formerly City Cares), a foundation based in the US that organizes almost 50,000 volunteer projects every year.

BUSINESS

Deal with BPC ended in '02, says Mirant

DESPITE A CASE RECENTLY FILED AGAINST it, Mirant Philippines Corp. maintained that it would not supply power to Bataan Polyethylene Corp. as this was a criminal offense under United States law and its Atlanta-based parent could suffer dire consequences.

"What BPC wants is for the local courts to force us to commit a criminal act. Under US laws, American executives, if found guilty, can go to jail for as long as 20 years. The companies face heavy fines. Mirant's understanding is that the new group that will operate BPC includes Iranian interests," Mirant Philippines spokesperson Laurence Rogero said.

American companies and executives are prohibited from facilitating "directly or indirectly" commercial transaction with any Iranian-owned entity "wherever located."

Rogero said this was part of the economic sanctions Washington had imposed "for Iran's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and support of international terrorism."

NPC Alliance Corp., which owns the Bataan petrochemical plant, is 40-percent owned by Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp. through Polymax Worldwide Ltd. The remaining 60-percent stake is held by companies led by National Petrochemical Co. International of Iran.

Also, Rogero said BPC still owed Mirant P1.1 billion for power supplied in the past.

The supply contract between BPC and Mirant Philippines was forged in late 1999. BPC shut down its operations in 2002 and in the same year, Mirant ended its supply contract with BPC and sought payment of termination penalties as provided in the contract.

"That BPC's foreign guarantors, including British Petroleum, paid the termination penalties of P240 million is a proof that Mirant no longer has any contractual obligation with BPC," he said.

Metro Alliance had filed a court case against Mirant seeking damages for allegedly "stonewalling efforts" to revive the petrochemical plant by refusing to commit to provide a power supply to the plant.

Abigail L. Ho

Asean leaders to sign 7 pacts

Deal on nursing services important to RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LEADERS OF THE 10-MEMBER ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations are expected to sign seven agreements in the 12th Asean Summit to be held in Cebu City on Dec. 11.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ramon Vicente T. Kabigting, director of the Department of Trade's Bureau of International Trade Relations, said the agreements to be signed were on the continuing implementation of established pacts, a new initiative, and certain amendments to previous agreements.

Of these pacts, Kabigting said the most significant for the Philippines was the Asean Mutual Recognition Agreement on nursing services, of which the country was the main proponent.

"This is an initiative in support of

the Bali Concord II, which calls for the completion of MRAs in major professional services," he said.

Kabigting said the pact would facilitate mobility of nurses within the region, exchange information and expertise on standards and qualifications, promote adoption of best practices and provide opportunities for capacity building and training.

"This would allow Philippine nurses to position themselves as a global brand known internationally as being more caring and relating well with patients," he said.

Also to be signed is a protocol to implement the fifth package of commitments under the Asean Framework Agreement on Services. This will "consolidate the commitments made in previous packages under the Afas and under the General Agreement on Trade in Services."

Kabigting said that from the Philippine perspective, this protocol would accord other Asean members the

same trade-in-services benefits granted to bilateral partners.

"This would serve to accelerate efforts to establish an Asean Community, patterned after what is now the European Union, that members hope to be in place by 2020," he said.

Asean leaders are also expected to sign a document that seeks to amend an Asean framework agreement for the integration of priority sectors and the protocol for the integration.

Asean has identified priorities for the harmonization of the 10 economies covering agro-based products, air travel and air transport, automotive products, software, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism and wood-based products.

Three other documents are related to the Asean-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, including an agreement on trade in services laid out in the CEC framework agreement.

FirstGen eyes projects in Middle East

By Abigail L. Ho

LOPEZ-OWNED FIRST GEN CORP. has set its sights on integrated water and power projects in the Middle East, which it intends to undertake by itself or with partners.

In an interview, FirstGen president and chief operating officer Federico Lopez said the firm had already sent people to the Middle East to scout for possible power and water projects.

"There's nothing final or specific yet. But there are a number of projects (that we are looking at) and we have been meeting with government

officials in the Middle East. Demand for integrated power and water projects there is high," he said.

FirstGen is considering projects involving gas-fired power plants with integrated desalination facilities for the areas to be selected.

Lopez said similar projects in the Middle East were mostly large-scale with capacity of at least 2,000 megawatts (MW), making it practical for FirstGen to tie up with other entities.

FirstGen, through First Gas Power Corp., operates the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants.

It also acquired through public auctions two National Power Corp. power facilities—the 1.6-MW Agusan hydropower plant and the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plant package.

The power firm is considering bidding for more Napocor assets, particularly the hydropower and geothermal facilities.

FirstGen vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho said the company might join the bidding for the 360-MW Magat hydropower facility on Dec. 8. He said it was also looking at the 600-MW Tiwi-Makban geothermal power facility.

DBP to fund start-up OFW ventures

By Doris C. Dumlaog

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES has earmarked P1 billion to finance start-up businesses of the families of overseas Filipino workers.

In an interview, DBP president Reynaldo David said that aside from giving them the seed capital, the bank would also use its corporate network to help OFW families to find livelihood opportunities.

As there was no way to tinker with the exchange rate, especially now that the peso's appreciation does not favor recipients of OFW remittances, starting a business is the way to augment the remittances received by the OFW families, David noted.

He said OFW households must be encouraged to venture into small or micro businesses, instead of spending all their money in shopping malls.

"For start-up businesses, you have to look at the big businesses, they have become their big brothers," David said.

For instance, he said DBP was talking to a major company that required delivery services, which could be an opportunity for an OFW family.

He said DBP could finance, for instance, OFWs who might want to buy trucks and start with an outsourcing contract.

With the peso appreciating sharply, David said OFWs now would have to remit over 6 percent more to compensate for the weaker dollar, especially since some costs like tuition fees were fixed.

At present, he said very few OFW households would want to start their own businesses. But David said in the next couple of years, interest in entrepreneurship among these households would surge.



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BUENAVENTURA

By Daxim L. Lucas

CENTRAL BANKING HAS been described as the art of throwing a party—a metaphor for economic activity—and suddenly taking away the punchbowl just as the guests start to get tipsy.

Thus, the ideal central banker is one who can make people enjoy the party (to get the economy through consumption and investment), but knows just when to rein in the "fun" to stop inflation from getting out of hand.

By this measure, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Carlos B. Buenaventura was a rousing success.

Having presided over the country's financial system in one of the most difficult post-Marcos periods, Paeng, as he is known to admirers and critics, kept the country's inflation rate relatively low when every other economic indicator was going the wrong way.

To be sure, his success was also due to the fact that the BSP is the government's best bureaucracy.

But Buenaventura's leadership allowed central bankers to walk with a swagger and assert their independent policies, knowing that the best economists and technocrats were backed by the most resolute of leaders.

"I couldn't understand why BSP was always scrimping on training and development," he told this reporter once, after approving several travel permits for junior staffers to attend seminars and study courses abroad. "Over the long term, investment in our own people is what will make a difference and we should not scrimp on that."

But if love for Paeng was universal within the BSP, outsiders had varied opinions about him, formed either through direct interaction or via the numerous myths and truths about his character.

Kind, thoughtful, helpful, intelligent, a good friend, keeps a grudge and cranky are just some of the comments people would usually utter when he was not around.

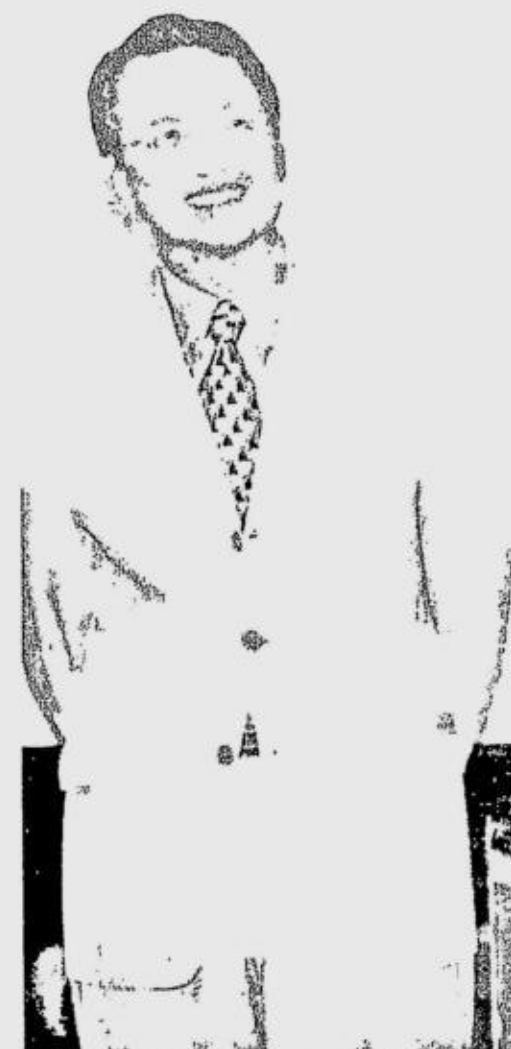
"Who cares? As long as it's the right thing to do," he would retort, when reporters prod him on the criticisms of some unpopular reforms he had pushed.

In the Gospels, Jesus Christ—whose salvation message was rejected in Nazareth—said that no prophet is honored in his own land.

So it was for Buenaventura whose efforts found greater acceptance abroad than at home.

He was honored by US-based Global Finance magazine as one of the world's best

CENTRAL/B2-3



THE IMF called Buenaventura a "pillar of stability."

Central banker bids adieu

Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura 1938-2006

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Shop gets a boost from online Romeos

By Christine A. Gaylan

E-COMMERCE RETAILING HAS PUSHED UP SALES OF PHILIPPINE Cut Flower Corp. by more than 30 percent this year, as more online Romeos found it convenient to click their way into their loved ones' hearts by sending fresh flowers through the worldwide web.

Through the company's website, www.islandrose.net, Philippine Cut Flower has sold more than 106,000 dozens in the last nine months alone, says Dustin B. Andaya, company marketing director.

"We make more sales now through the Internet than from walk-in customers," Andaya tells the INQUIRER. "It's the convenience of choosing from a wide array of our products."

More importantly, he adds, their clients enjoy the privacy of sending their messages attached to their bouquets.

He explains that the automated messages generated by the company's main system guarantee their customers' private transactions.

Loyalty program

"Gone is the day when you'd feel embarrassed dictating your private messages over the phone," Andaya says. "Now with our system, the messages that you encode electronically will also be printed out and sealed in an instant by our automated facility."

Over the last two years since the company introduced its website, the company's customer base has grown to over 25,000. These regular clients are now part of a loyalty membership program, each receiving regular discounts with their purchases.

Alexa.com, a world authority in web information services, recently included www.islandrose.com.ph among the top 15 Philippine websites. The site was also a finalist in the

2005 Philippine Web Awards under the category best e-commerce website, Andaya says.

Customers buy flowers anywhere "from a dozen ... to more than 1,000 dozens a day, depending on the occasion," he claims. "This makes us one of the most experienced Internet service providers in any industry."

New products

The company offers the usual dark red, pink, yellow and orange long stemmed roses without thorns. Later this month, it will introduce new varieties that may also be purchased through the website.

"We will introduce the kalima, which has a creamy peach color, the aqua baby, with a baby pink color, and the Joanne, which is bright pink in color," he says. "Our lavender roses will have a special scent of Davidoff perfumes."

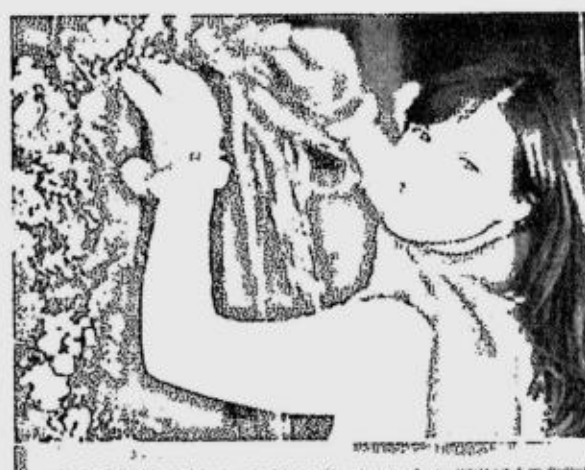
The Philippine Cut Flower Corp. has made its mark in the local cut flower industry, producing no less than 2 million stems a year and distributing these among leading Filipino retailers. Some of the flowers have also found their way abroad, selling briskly in five countries, including Hong Kong, Australia and Japan.

According to Andaya, the consistent product quality was made possible by introducing the latest farm technology in Philippine Cut Flower's farms.

The company's rose farm in Tagaytay makes full use of the state-of-the-art technology to

islandrose

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Send farm fresh roses anywhere in the Philippines!



A COMELY model greets the clicking Cassanova at PCFC's website, www.islandrose.net.

sustain the large-scale cut flower production. This year, the company completed a P4-million expansion to increase production to at least 3 million stems a year.

Greenhouse

A glass greenhouse equipped with a cutting-edge computer-controlled climate system that automatically adjusts weather, water and fertilizer requirements was recently put up in

Philippine Cut Flower's farm, according to Arnold B. Andaya, company vice president for operations.

The system is there to ensure efficient production and consistent quality, he says.

The pioneering technology "enabled the company to engage in commercial production of European roses and allowed us to introduce a variety of colors to the local market," he adds.

HP first to launch business desktop with Intel® vPro technology

Offers built-in manageability, proactive security, energy-efficient performance and broad industry support. For any organization that stores valuable data on desktop PCs and workstations, security is a constant challenge. From small businesses to global enterprises, from small local school systems to national governments, constant and strict vigilance is a must to protect a company's business assets.

Security threats continue to sprout and spread and they are growing ever more dangerous. In addition to the steady stream of new viruses, worms and Trojan horses, threats to client systems include hackers, inadequate system access controls. Even thieves can just nonchalantly saunter away carrying off your computer.

With the growing number of security threats, public and private entities are becoming more open to enormous risks from disruption of ongoing operations and costly downtime due to security breaches, to the loss of valuable trade secrets and damage to employees when personal information ends up in the wrong hands. And don't forget the risk of serious legal and regulatory sanctions for organizations that don't properly manage data security.

On the market

To protect business from these threats, a gamut of solutions have been developed and made available on the market. However, many of these solutions have issues of their own. Some only cover either virtual or physical assets. Others don't offer manageable technology, making them hard to use.

Others solutions impress with their affordable acquisition prices, only to shock the business with the mind-blowing total cost of ownership (TCO). If you don't already know, acquisition prices reflect only 10 to 23% of the TCO, according to Gartner and TBR. The rest (77 to 90%) is accounted for by the cost of planning, deployment, and ongoing management, which can hit at least \$4K and easily skyrocket to \$11K per desktop computer per year.

HP security tools

To address the need for built-in manageability, proactive security, energy-efficient performance and broad industry support, HP has come out with the high-security dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology business desktop, the first in the Philippines that uses Intel® vPro Technology.

"At HP, we understand today's security challenges, and we are working actively to help you overcome them. We offer a growing range of solutions to enhance the security of your HP business desktops and workstations," Bernadette Nacario, General Manager, Personal Systems Group, HP Philippines said.

Simple and effective data security to solve business issues

With the dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology, no more scribbling passwords on sticky notes and pasting them around your monitor screen. The dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology offers the highest performance to cover every business's technology security need.

While most of today's personal computers (PCs) restrict remote access to the system, Intel vPro Technology with Intel® Active Management Technology 2 (IAMT2), a new communications protocol that allows corporate IT departments to remotely discover, heal and protect their networked computing assets using new platform capabilities and compatible management & security applications.

IAMT2 offers new levels of security and manageability that slash costly repair visits when systems go down by allowing administrators to query the new system flash memory, determine the problem, then often fix the system remotely by reinstalling corrupt or missing software.

As a result, it slashes ability desk-side visits with improved provisioning, problem resolution, off-hours maintenance, and security; cuts time spent on routine maintenance and security tasks; increases uptime with down-the-wire security and manageability capabilities even when PCs are off or operating system (OS) is down; and raises productivity while reducing power consumption and noise. Did we mention that the dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology is easily scalable to accommodate Windows Vista, 64-bit applications, etc?

IAMT2 enables Out of Band (OOB) manageability, a process where it can discover, heal and protect platform regardless of the OS's state or power state.

It also has Circuit Breaker technology which reduces exposure to virus infections by sealing itself from the rest of the network, thereby containing outbreaks and software tampering on the managed client. When suspicious network activity to or from the PC is identified, IAMT2 can break itself off the network before wider infection occurs. It then remotely fixes the problem without infecting other clients on the network, then gets the PC up and running again.

The dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology also features the HP OpenView Client Configuration Manager 2.0 manageability tool, which offers significant manageability features across multi-vendor, Windows-based client products, and the HP Client Manager 6.1 which can obtain information about client systems performs some lifecycle management operations on those client systems. It can remotely and accurately inventory PC hardware and software assets anytime, even if systems are powered off or their OS is not working properly.

Only the best names

Strategic relationships with Altiris, HP OpenView, and Intel have integrated, pre-tested and validated Intel® vPro™ Technology on HP's PCs to ensure that they work better together.

The technology is widely documented in white papers, providing users with detailed, tested guidance and technical information to help businesses implement and share best practices. To boot, Intel has more than 27 end-user case studies/white papers from highly recognized end-users that have experienced vPro technology, including BMW, ING, Providence Health, EDS, Unisys, Atos Origin, IT Ministry of Railway for Beijing/LanZhou. Just to name a few.

To boost the performance of the dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology, HP integrated Intel® Deskbrand™ technology which is supported by major known names in management applications, security software and business software: Altiris, CA, LANDesk, Microsoft, Symantec, StarSoftComm, Cisco, CheckPoint, Novell, Hitachi, Openview and RTC.

For more information on HP dc7700 with Intel® vPro technology, check out these resources:

- www.intel.com/vpro
- HP White paper: HP Compaq dc7700p Business PC - Intel vPro Technology - Prerequisites and Trade-offs, 434478-001, 6/2006
- HP White paper: Intel vPro Provisioning, 434476-001, 6/2006
- Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator: www.intel.com/vpro/manageability.htm

Pricing and availability

• The HP Compaq dc7700 Desktop PC is priced at P99,990.

About HP

HP is a technology solutions provider to consumers, businesses and institutions globally. The company's offerings span IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended Oct. 31, 2006, HP revenue totaled \$91.7 billion. More information about HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

ADVT.

Getting to know more about gadgets

By Abigail L. Ho

WHEN THE AVERAGE NON-TECHIE gets a new device, say, a smartphone, the first thing he does is tinker with the device and try out its different functions. Who cares about the software that powers it as long as it works, right?

Microsoft Philippines aims to change that mindset by educating the average Filipino consumer on the inner workings of common devices such as mobile phones, smartphones, Personal Digital Assistants, digital cameras and personal computers.

Through the country's first Microsoft Experience Center at the Avant store at Greenbelt 4, Microsoft Philippines consumer marketing manager Ivan Franco said consumers could experience firsthand the "digital lifestyle" while getting direct access to the latest Microsoft product offerings.

"We want the Filipino consumer to experience the digital lifestyle by giving them direct access to various products. We're reaching out to the average Filipino consumer because the computer has now become an appliance for the whole family," he said in an interview.

"All the products in our Microsoft Experience Center work well together. You can take a photo using your mobile phone or digital camera, and then upload it to your computer for filing or sharing, or you could opt to print it out. We want the technology that is available today to become tools of productivity and empowerment for our consumers," he added.



With partners Hewlett-Packard Philippines and O2, he said the Microsoft Experience Center was designed to be "a mini hub of technology at its best."

Housed at the first level of the two-story Avant store, the Microsoft Experience Center carries various product offerings, including the latest devices from HP and O2.

Apart from giving Filipino consumers a chance to experience the digital lifestyle, Franco said the first of 25 Microsoft Experience Centers in the country were aimed at boosting awareness of Microsoft's product offerings, particularly the newly released Windows Vista and Office 2007.

"Our foray into the retail space will allow our customers to get a firsthand experience of our new and emerging technologies, some of which have not been officially launched in the market. We hope that this will get consumers psyched about our upcoming product offerings," he said.

He noted that the opening of the first Microsoft Experience Center really aimed to drum up support for Windows Vista and Office 2007—which both had better consumer interfaces and were designed with end-users in mind.

The next 24 Microsoft Experience Centers should open in various locations around Metro Manila and key cities in the provinces by mid-2007, he said.

Smarter smartphone launched

QUESTION: HOW MANY GADGETS do you need to lug around to satisfy all of your on-the-go tech cravings? Answer: Just one—the Palm Treo 680.

The recently launched smartphone, with its sleeker design and smaller size, combines all the functions of a cellular phone, plus a still and video camera, music player, and mobile office, thus doing away with the risk of giving users a sore back from carrying too many gadgets in their pockets or totes.

According to Palm Inc. Asia Pacific managing director Sharon Ee, the Philippine launch last Nov. 29 was the first in Asia-Pacific.

The latest addition to the Palm Treo line aims to capitalize on the growing demand for smartphones, which research firm In-Stat sees accounting for 25 percent of all mobile handset sales worldwide by 2011.

"We expect the smartphone market to grow in the broader base, as prices decline

and more models are introduced," Ee said.

Palm Asia Pacific product marketing manager Toh Seng Hock said another driver for smartphone sales was the ease of adjusting from using a regular mobile phone to a converged device such as the Treo 680.

The new Palm smartphone, he said, offered users an easy-to-use interface, a large touchscreen and an "easy-type" QWERTY keyboard that could be used with just one hand.

It also does away with the annoying antenna, making it sleeker and smaller than previous Treo models.

For easier text message recall, the Treo 680's messaging application displays text message conversations as "threaded chats," similar to instant messaging and to Google's Gmail e-mail threads. This means text messaging-based conversations with a particular contact can

be easily seen and re-read.

Users who usually bring their work with them anywhere they go can take advantage of the smartphone's improved Web browser—the Blazer 4.5—as well as of three-way calling, built-in dial-up networking, Microsoft Word and Excel file viewing and editing, and Adobe PDF and Microsoft PowerPoint file viewing.

The new device also has enhanced multimedia capabilities, enabling users to use it to stream music, play MP3 files and manage and share photo albums.

"The Treo 680 is small, sleek and fast, and is the smartphone for everyone. It boasts of a great phone design, is ideal for messaging and e-mail, and provides users easy and fast access to the Internet and to their favorite music and pictures," Palm global markets senior vice president John Harnett said.

It has an on-board memory of 64MB, expandable by up to 2GB via an expansion slot that supports MMC, SD, and SD I/O cards.

The Treo 680 has a suggested retail price of P29,800 and will be available in the Philippines starting Dec. 15.

Abigail L. Ho



TREO 680

Central ...

From page B2-1

central bankers—two years in a row—beating even the legendary Alan Greenspan by several notches.

Even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) called Buenaventura the "pillar of stability" for a country that was struggling to navigate fiscal crisis waters.

The best praise came from Bloomberg columnist William Pesek Jr. who called him "the glue holding [the] fractured economy together since 1999."

"His presence has comforted businesspeople and done as much as anything to keep the Philippines from proving correct those who believe it's the 'Argentina of Asia,'" he added, saying that Paeng was "an adult in the room" that prevented all political hell from breaking loose.

In life, Paeng's gospel was heard abroad. With his passing, however, more and more people at home will strain listen to the echoes of his voice, preaching low interest rates, capital market reforms, and microfinance for the poor.

Managing diversity of competencies

From page B2-4

port another record breaking year of profitability.

In the face of these prospectively sanguine results are a number of strategic challenges that lie ahead of us.

Let me describe to you how our future is likely to look:

First, landline revenues will be under pressure from competing wireless platforms and from the Internet, both of which will offer more affordable means of voice communication.

Second, as wireless penetration rate rises, the growth of wireless revenues will moderate.

Thus, Smart's and Pilte's revenues would grow at rates lower than in previous, as we mine deeper into the lower economic strata of our society.

Third, the onset of broadband products, services, applications and solutions will raise consolidated revenues for PLDT in the coming years by double digits.

Fourth, our call centers and business

process outsourcing units will together form a significant portion of consolidated profits for PLDT. Together with broadband, they are the fastest growing revenue generators of PLDT.

It is our aim to make broadband access widely available in both our fixed and mobile networks. The historical core of PLDT's business has been access. Connectivity was our game.

In the future, it will increasingly become: connectivity plus—meaning connectivity plus value added services. The reason for this is simple: connectivity will eventually become a commodity. And our competitive advantage will increasingly come from value added services, not just a dial tone.

The virtue, if not also necessity, of reinventing, transforming, remaking oneself rests on our passion for innovation.

We believe that the best way you will thrive in a competitive environment is by innovating.

How do we manage this? It's quite simple. We engage people who can cre-

ate the best products and services. We've developed a culture and a system that encourages innovation. That system works because there is no system.

Innovation comes from our people meeting up in hallways or calling each other at midnight with a new idea.

Or someone starts shooting holes in how we've been thinking about a problem.

It's the ad hoc meetings of six people over coffee called by someone who thinks he has figured out the coolest new text offering ever, and wants to know what other people think of the idea.

It also comes from saying no to a thousand things to make sure we don't get on the wrong track, or are trying to do too much.

It's only by saying no that we can concentrate on the things that really matter!

Conclusion

Before closing, let me just say that it is important that we expand our per-

spective from the boardroom to the broader domain of people welfare.

After all, the standard by which a business should be measured is, in the first instance, the profits it produces and, in the final case, by how it leads in effecting the changes necessary to enhance welfare and well-being.

Economic development involves something more than economic growth.

Development means growth plus change. This qualitative difference is likely to appear in the improved performance of the factors of production, in the enhanced techniques of production, and in the better management of our environment.

It must also appear in the development of stronger institutions and a change in attitudes and values.

(Speech delivered by the author during the 5th MAP International CEO Conference on Oct. 11, 2006. The author, is chair of PLDT and Smart. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Money in the Bank

By Zenon Kapron, Intel Asia Pacific Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

Financial services companies are demanding smaller, faster, and smarter solutions. They are discovering that the same value points are addressed using new desktop technologies, without the infrastructure restrictions or inflexible structures that older, terminal-based systems impose. Better performance, better manageability and more security all help front-office staff perform their jobs - and deliver the responsiveness demanded by today's banking customers.



There has been a shift towards a more complete customer experience and convenience. In many banks, tellers are required to perform cross-selling activity at the window, without relying on a separate set of advisors for every sales opportunity. This new approach relies on staff being able to quickly access and analyze customer information. A teller needs a single source of truth when it comes to information on the customer's position and their financial lifecycle.

However, older terminals at many banks are unable to present a single window into customer data. A text-based terminal cannot provide prompts, flag new special offers to the teller, or suggest other products that fit the customer's profile.

A new breed of high performance PCs can now help tellers be more proactive. They can run a host of specifically-tailored marketing applications—ideal for on-the-spot up-selling or cross selling opportunities at the first point of customer contact.

Financial advisors in bank branches also benefit from highly specific yet compute-intensive applications similar to those used at capital markets firms. Financial advisors can now use these applications to increase customer visibility, improve cross-selling rates and increase wallet share.

High-performance desktop PCs also offer access to real-time customer views and account value positions. Using connected PCs, immediate access to information that can help bank staff seize short-term market opportunities and make best-case recommendations to their clients.

Financial services firms require tremendous amounts of computing resource to handle all transactions, local and international, demanded by a range of customers. The ability of high-power PCs to link into existing global networks provides a new range of flexibility and responsiveness, particularly for Internet banking and account management, which need constant customization to stay fresh. These channels demand the highest levels of security; a need that only technology can fulfill in today's complex business environments.

Customer responsiveness goes beyond front-end applications. Highly scalable infrastructures are required to efficiently connect the customer to the global financial industry. If a system can display multiple product offerings at the branch position, but cannot quickly access the data and decision support it needs, business opportunities vanish and customer satisfaction suffers.

Dual-core processor-based desktop PCs employ advanced management and security techniques that create an unprecedented combination of agility and capability. With this new breed of powerful desktops, staff can enjoy a responsive experience as they multitask across multiple demanding applications while bank security and management tasks continue to run in the background.

Secured transactions amounting to million of dollars and exposing confidential client data are transacted on a daily basis. Using new hardware platforms, software experts have collaborated with hardware R&D teams to solve security issues posed by desktop machines. Increased user access to the compute kernel requires extra vigilance.

Now, critical security applications can run in the background in a virtual partition while users are working on compute-intensive tasks within the standard operating system (OS) environment. This approach keeps vital security processes isolated from potential OS security compromises and ensures they are isolated from threats such as viral emails. Updates and security management can even be managed while the machine is powered down for maximum convenience and firewalled safety.

IT managers have already welcomed this new approach to security. It brings remote management techniques to the desktop that previously only existed on servers.

The New Solution

The new solution bringing relief to the financial services industry's highly varied demands are PCs with Intel® vPro™ technology. Provided on a coherent, standardized system, it includes manageability and proactive security features with the second-generation of Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) built into the chipset, and Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT). Intel® VT is integrated into the new dual-core Intel® Core™2 Duo processor featured on every PC with Intel vPro technology.

These hardware innovations, when combined with industry software solutions, offer unprecedented manageability, security, and energy efficient performance together with reduced operating costs and increased user-level functionality. Intel AMT can even manage, inventory, diagnose, and repair PCs when they are turned off or experience OS or hard drive interruptions.

ADVT

...the performance up.
...take the heat off
...your hands for
...rest of both worlds

Introducing Intel® vPro™ technology.
Powered by Intel® Core™2 Duo processors.

The new Intel® vPro™ technology is a unique set of integrated hardware solutions designed to boost company performance. Built around Intel® Core™2 Duo processors, which operate faster than any previous desktop processor - by up to 40%*. And slash energy requirements - by over 40%*. To drive productivity up. Energy bills down. And your business full speed ahead. Get up to speed at intel.com/apac/vpro.

*Performance based on SPECint*_rate_base2000 (2 copies) and energy efficiency based on Thermal Design Power (TDP), comparing Intel® Core™2 Duo E6700 to Intel® Pentium® D Processor 960. Actual performance may vary. See www.intel.com/performance for more information. ©2006 Intel Corporation. Intel, the Intel logo, Intel vPro, Intel Core, Intel Leap Ahead, and the Intel Leap Ahead logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. All rights reserved.

BUSINESSMonday

Managing diversity of competencies

LET ME TURN YOU BACK TO A DAY IN December 1998, just after First Pacific had concluded its investment in PLDT, and shortly after I assumed office as PLDT president and CEO.

I had a meeting then with a major international bank and, for the first time in my professional life, I had to tell a lender that Piltel was in default with respect to certain of its loan covenants, and will soon be in payment default under its loan agreement.

At the same time, we were just beginning to become alive to the other daunting risks that lie ahead, suggested mainly by the threat of the cellular business, to PLDT's traditional voice business.

PLDT eight years ago was preponder-

antly a landline voice enterprise, with an organization that was big, fat and slow. It behaved with the complacency of a monopolist, and possessed a bureaucracy and culture not too different from government's.

That said, PLDT possessed considerable, inherent strengths—not least being its significant market leadership, a rich and extensive infrastructure, and sizeable economies of scale. But the strength intrinsic to its size was precisely its weakness.

That's because the industry was changing extremely rapidly, and the core business of fixed line voice was swiftly being eroded by new businesses driven by emerging technologies.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel V. Pangilinan



Articulating what PLDT's future should be, and how PLDT ought to respond to competitive hazards, were up-
permost in our minds then.

In addition, our anxieties revolved around what resources and competencies were required—and changes critically needed—to shape that future. Finally, we were focused on the execution

risk—a risk higher than crafting the plan itself.

Our defining vision for PLDT centered upon the creation of a converged and integrated telecommunications conglomerate offering a full and diverse range of products and services—voice, data, and video—the so-called triple play—delivered by multiple and rich infrastructures—a nationwide, fiber-optic backbone, wired, cellular, vsats, satellite, cable television, even terrestrial television.

First Pacific had invested in Smart Communications in 1992, six years before we acquired PLDT in 1998. But we had a broader vision for our telecommunications business in the Philippines. We

needed an extensive landline component to enhance Smart's competitive strength.

And the final piece of this integrated model was an Internet company—eventually, this became ePLDT, which started operations in 2001.

Finally, we knew the kind of culture we wanted to build—a company that was effective, aggressive and ruthless. "Ruthless" companies excelled at nurturing their customer base, expanding market share, and finding new paths to growth through innovation.

Path to competitiveness

So what did we do to compose PLDT's new future, and enhance its competitiveness?

We crafted an agenda that was transforming in nature, with an eye on a single goal: the reinvention of PLDT.

Our transformation agenda had two parts: First, redefine our future, consistent with the vision of a unified, yet diverse, telecommunications company. Second, identify which new businesses should be developed or acquired, that could add value to our existing core business.

We have identified four main causes of industry turbulence.

First is technology—for example, the technology that allows telephone calls to be placed over the Internet at near zero cost. Second is the emergence of a new, low-cost business model enabled by a variety of versatile and cost-effective technologies coming together at the same time.

A third cause is government deregulation that has opened wide the doors to more competition. Fourth and finally, the Internet, which is changing industry after industry, from recorded music to securities trading.

But my sense is that there are more instances of companies which fail, rather than succeed. That's because the task of business re-invention is simply demanding. Most managers have never done the work of redefinition before, and much risk is involved. The low success rate of redefinition is due less to unskilled management; it is simply inherent in the complexity of the task.

But the instances of success I've seen suggest a few instructive caveats:

1. Redefine your core business with a clear vision and a set of strategic imperatives which the management team buys into.
2. Establish a common point of view on which disruptive technologies might play out and, in that light, what positioning in the marketplace provides you with the greatest competitive advantage.
3. Balance the need for integration of new businesses into the original core, with the imperative for speed to execute.
4. Over-invest in management competencies and management processes at the start of your re-invention program.

Building on strengths

The second part of our transformation agenda deals with building new businesses which can protect and enhance PLDT's core business. This is our "adjacency strategy."

So far, PLDT has been substantially successful in its adjacency strategy.

From a landline telephony provider only eight years ago, we're now a diversified technology conglomerate.

Our two cellular companies—Smart and a resurrected Piltel—contribute a significant proportion of PLDT's consolidated profits and cash flows. In both instances, we set out to do more than just compete. We went to work and created a new cellular market in the Philippines. Smart's success in expanding its market share arose from bold moves it undertook in 1993 and then again in 1999, on developing the larger mass market and, as well, by focusing on segmenting that market by creating the appropriate brands and campaigns for each segment.

ePLDT, which commenced commercial operations only four years ago, is already profitable, and is one of the largest contact service centers in the country.

We have had notable failures however, like our inability to complete an investment in GMA-7 five years ago. Channel 7 is now the country's leading television station. And the merger of our Home Cable with Sky Cable has regrettably yet to see the light of a profitable day.

However, being a conglomerate brings with it the blessings and burdens of diversity. The diversity and richness of our network infrastructure produces the advantage of offering a bigger bouquet of products and services—but the disadvantage of complexity in running and maintaining it.

Diversity also refers to people—who will have different, sometimes conflicting skills, outlook, and experience. We've assembled teams of managers, engineers and marketers for our different businesses, and put them together to achieve the benefits of an integrated network and a convergent business model.

But we now face the formidable task of unifying these different management teams—employed in accordance with the legal formats of PLDT, Smart, Piltel, ePLDT and their many subsidiaries and affiliates—into a cohesive unit. This cohesion became particularly acute when we began to offer bundled products and services.

Our future

If there are no adverse developments for the balance of this year, PLDT is likely to re-

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Taste and culture**
in Taguig foodfest /D4

■ **Otoniel Gonzaga**
concert Dec. 9 /D2

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

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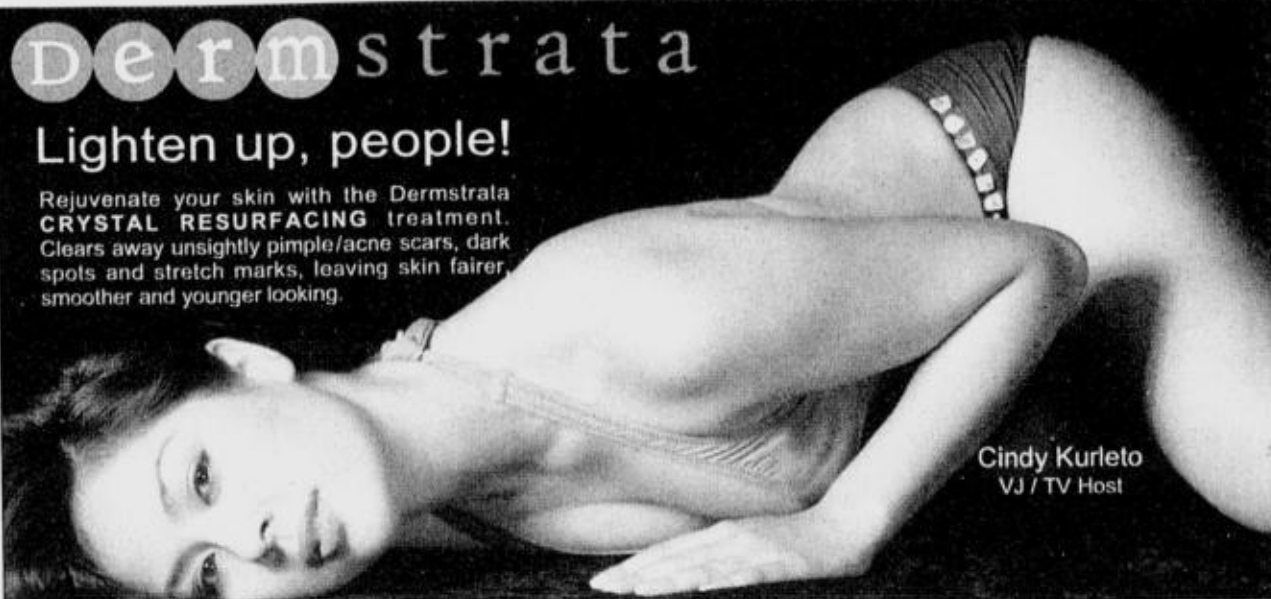
Christie's auction shows the promise of Philippine art

An early Luz work featured on the cover of the catalogue is sold for double the estimate

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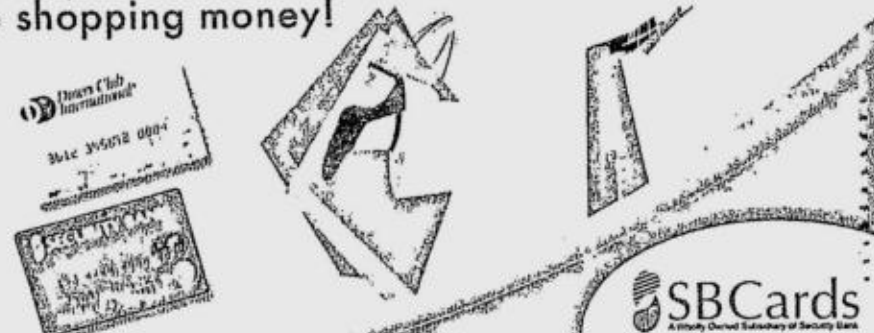
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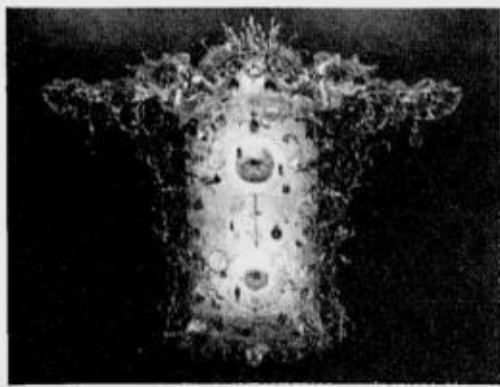
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GABRIEL Barredo

Christie's auction shows the promise of Philippine art

By Ambeth R. Ocampo

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR SINCE I last wrote about the Fall auctions that Christie's usually conducts in Hong Kong in November. Choice of venue is obviously meant to cater to the collectors of Important Chinese Jade, Imperial Chinese Porcelain, Outstanding Chinese Calligraphy, and, the current flavor of the month being, Chinese Modern Art.

Christie's also caters to the stylish Hong Kong people who have a knack for ostentatious displays of wealth on their wrists. One of its much-awaited auctions is that for very expensive watches, and this

year it even comes with pieces from a royal collection.

I enjoy auctions as a spectator and have never participated in one lest I get carried away and have to pawn my mother to pay for a painting. Despite all the excitement in the other sale rooms, I had my sights on the auction of "Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art" held Nov. 26 at the Hong Kong Convention Center in Wanchai.

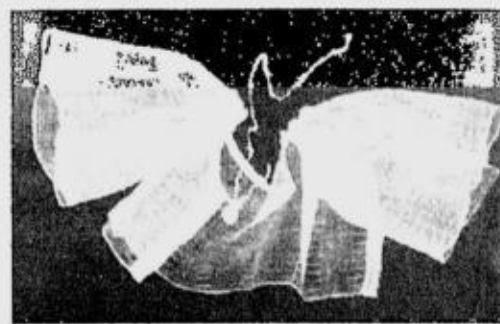
This sale covers paintings from the Asean region, particularly Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. While the Philippine lots comprise the minority and are not as highly priced as, say, Indonesian art, the sale was worth watching because some prominent Manila collectors quietly flew into Hong Kong over the weekend to bid for the work that was on the cover of the catalogue. This was an important and relatively rare figurative work by Arturo R. Luz titled "Estudiantina."

It was also significant that a Luz work was given prominence on the catalogue cover because the artist celebrated his 80th birthday last month. Painted in enamel on canvas, "Estudiantina" depicts a man with a guitar—he's a troubadour, actually—and the work measuring roughly 45 x 32 inches was estimated at US\$30,800-\$35,900. It sold over twice the estimate at \$84,834.34 (this is the hammer or closing price plus commission, and other fees).

Restrained paintings

The next lot was another Luz, a busy, almost abstract, work called "Venice at Night," which was huge at 24 x 79 inches. Like many of Luz's sturdy early works it was also painted in enamel on canvas and was estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000. It sold for \$33,933.82.

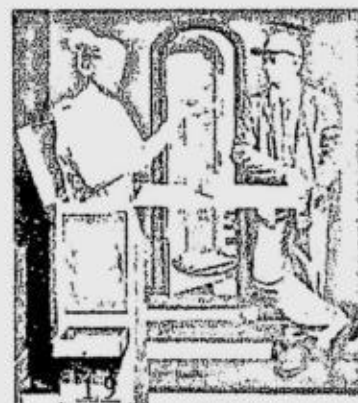
Luz is quite popular in Manila these days due to his simple and, some would say, restrained paintings that work very well with the clean lines of minimalist interiors.



NEAL Oshima



GERALDINE Javier



JOSÉ Santos III



FERNANDO Amorsolo

These works in Christie's go back 50 years to an earlier phase of his work.

The downside is that, since early Luz works are scarce, some unscrupulous people take a shortcut through forging the works.

If you follow the auction results on the Internet or from a printed catalogue, you will notice that "Lot 51" is missing from the section on Philippine paintings. This is not a typographical error; a very reliable source says that Lot 51 was supposed to be an early work by Luz who, when shown the photograph, declared it a fake.

Fortunately this lot was quietly removed from the auction catalogue and is probably making the rounds in Manila now, waiting for a gullible buyer.

Surprisingly there were no works by the late-19th-century painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo which are always

in demand. There were also no works by the underrated Fabian de la Rosa, who has been far outshined, both literally and figuratively, by his nephew Fernando Amorsolo.

Boring paintings

As in the auctions of the rival Sotheby's, the works of other National Artists were represented, such as those by Ang Kiukok and Fernando Amorsolo, who are staples at auction. All their works were sold but within the estimated price range, suggesting that collectors are becoming more selective.

For example, there were two works by Ang Kiukok: The late work, made in 1999, did not sell very far beyond the estimate at \$7,403.74; this is lower than his price range in Manila.

But the early work (1976),

which was yet another of those sharp contorted Crucifixions, sold beyond the high-end estimate of \$7,000 at \$10,025.40.

From Amorsolo we had more of the same, it could be quite boring. One wonders how many harvest scenes, bathing *dalagas*, tinkling dancers, cockfights, and women under mango trees the market can take.

But these always sell very well such as the 1937 "Under the Mango Tree," sold at \$64,410.08 at the high end of the estimate.

Amorsolo is always a safe investment. It is pleasant, recognizable and easy to hang on a living—or dining—room wall.

Newly minted or, should we say, the recently canonized Ben Cabrera or Bencab was represented by two small early works, both in acrylic on paper, that should, at most, be considered minor work. However, due to the great demand for his work and the slim supply, collectors competed and paid through the nose.

The more interesting of the two, showing a seated Augustinian friar holding a cane, painted in that pop-

ular "Larawan" style, was small at 27 x 22 inches but terrible in price. Fairly estimated to sell at \$7,000-\$9,000, it sold for \$27,764.03 or three times the high estimate.

Naturally this makes all collectors of Bencab works very happy indeed, but strangely enough nobody is selling. Everyone seems to be holding on, waiting for prices to hit the roof if it hasn't already.

The great thing about the recent Christie's auction is that young artists from the Philippines sold very well. It was surprising that Marcel Antonio, who has been very popular with buyers from Singapore, did not sell this time, but two younger painters, José Santos III and Geraldine Javier (both born 1970), sold beyond estimate.

Santos' large 37 x 33-inch "The Game" was estimated at \$1,900-\$2,600. It sold at \$4,010.36.

Quite a bargain, since you cannot buy a work of the Belgian surrealist master Magritte for the same price. Javier, like Bencab, has little supply to fill in demand so the painting "Storm Chasing Dog Chasing Girl Chasing Storm," which is just as its title suggests, was estimated at a modest \$1,500-\$2,600 but sold for \$9,254.68.

All this is very exciting indeed and promises a future for Philippine art in the international market.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

From the eth to the

By Constantino C. Tejero

NOTHING'S WRONG WITH ETHNOCENTRIC art, but when it becomes a pronounced ethnicity, it is often seen as a limitation. Two artists from the Cordillera transcend that parochialism which characterizes many an artwork from the regions.

Joseph Crisanto Martinez, a.k.a. JCrisanto, and Roger Tibon, a.k.a. Rishab, are both based in Baguio City. They're joining in an eponymous exhibit of pieces in mixed media, until Dec. 4 in The Saturday Group Gallery, L/2, Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

The artworks, invariably drenched in warm colors accentuated with cool tones, display a universality not only of themes and sentiments but also of modes, styles, techniques and appearance. Most of them are rooted, in fact, in the figuration and abstraction of the West, largely erasing any ethnic identity.

JCrisanto is relatively unknown to Manila gallery-goers as he exhibits his art mostly in Baguio. A multimedia artist who's into acrylic, gouache, colograph and mixed media, he is also an independent Web designer and digital graphic artist.

Of the two, he's the one who has clearly retained some traces of his native milieu. In "To Embrace a Culture," the patterns and motifs hand-carved on board are precisely those one can find in Cordilleran art, specifically the border patterns in tribal weave, the mandala, the vegetal motif, the *bulul* on the corners. But one also sees in it the visual design of the Persian carpet.

Common patterns

In "A Piscean Ensemble" and "Wildflowers"—pieces in gouache and ink on board consisting of planes filled with vivid hues, outlined by an unbroken line that traces forms hinting at figures—one vaguely notices the flora and fauna



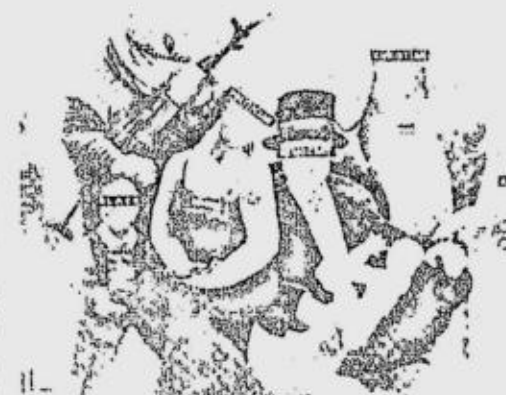
"CHRONO.HYMNO.PERPETUA," by Rishab

of the Cordillera. But then, these are patterns that are common in decorative art of any culture, and brushstrokes that are typical of American Abstract Expressionism.

Being already a veteran, Rishab is the more noted artist. Although self-taught, he already has extensive local as well as international exposure, having exhibited in Australia, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore.

Consequently his art appears more universal, in the sense that one can hardly trace the milieu of his images. That is, they may feel native but they don't look particularly Cordilleran.

In "Family Portrait," the figures are faceless and have instead epithets across where their eyes should have been (*Politician, Democrat, Christian, Black*), and columns of labels in-



"FAMILY Portrait," by Rishab

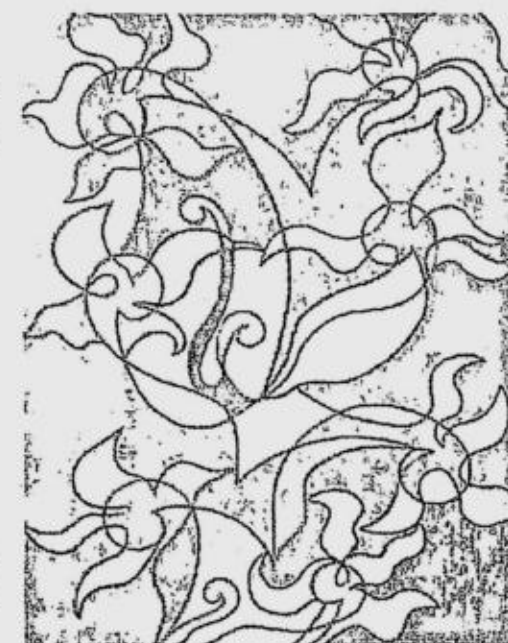
scribed on their bodies. The sentiment and impulse may be Philippine Social Realism but the imagery is positively Western. It could be an American multisectoral group, or European, or even Latin American.

Universal symbols

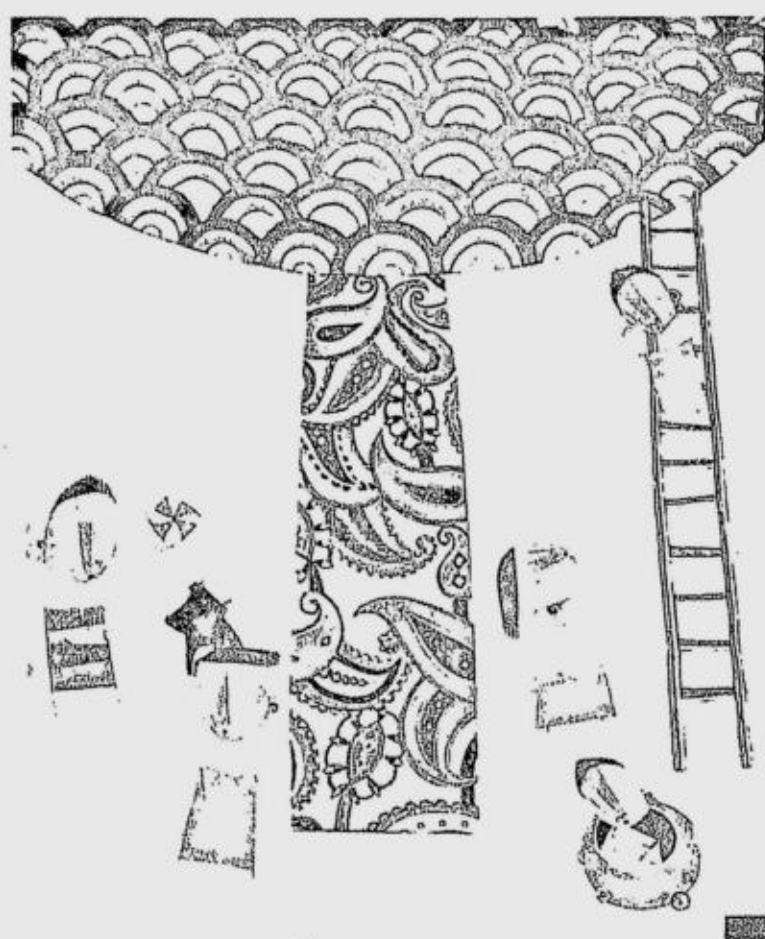
"Ani" depicts a stooped figure harvesting rice, the blazing disc of the sun mirrored by the peasant's wide-brimmed hat and sickle, and the field transformed into a cloudy bank of warm hues. This may say something about agrarian unrest in the Philippine countryside, but the image also points to the golden pastoral of Amorsolo and the soft impressionism of Millet.

Meanwhile, "Chrono.hymno.perpetua," showing an armless naked torso of a woman caught in a tornado of spiraling ribbon, conch, clockwork, flock of doves, with a disembodied hand imprinting ripples on her chest, another hand behind her morphing into an hourglass, is a blend of Dali, Magritte and Hallmark.

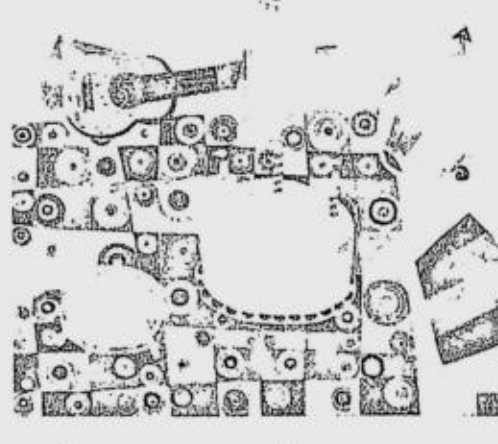
The artists' statement explains it all: "With our art we try to negotiate the complex mix of the personal, the customary and the contemporary that makes us who we are. Our intention has been to develop a visual idiom that embodies principles of interconnectedness, interdependence and creativity. The work honors widely varying cultural, religious and spiritual paths, speaks to the interconnectedness of all paths, and uses universal symbols."



"WILDFLOWERS," by JCrisanto



PLAYFUL art. (Clockwise from top) Farley del Rosario's "Playstation"; Yveese Belen's "Playground" 3; Del Rosario's "High Five"; and Belen's "Playground" 4.



Yveese Belen and Farley del Rosario at 1/of Gallery

"PLAY STATION," A collection of works by young artists Yveese Belen and Farley del Rosario, is on exhibit at 1/of Gallery, 2/F, Serendra, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The show features oil and acrylic on canvas, available in limited-edition giclee prints.

While both artists favor the naïf, each have distinct styles that have been well-lauded.

Belen, twice an Art Petron honoree (Grand prize in 2000 and honorable mention in 2003), also received the Benavidez Award for excellence in the field of visual arts when she graduated from University of Santo Tomas.

Belen's faceless, straight-legged figures are often seen gathered around train tracks or traipsing along ladders, the tracks and rungs created by a scratching technique staple in her artworks.

Belen is in London, where she often visits the Tate Modern.

The steadily growing popularity of Del Rosario's art has landed him the honor of being commissioned by the Philippines Yearbook 2006 to provide the illustrations for the essays of A.R. Samson, Federico Pascual Jr., and National Artist F. Sionil José.

His fans are charmed by his fondness for patterns, among them circular groupings that either become clouds, furniture upholstery and floor designs; or paisley trees and surprising elements, which elicit childlike wonder, the same that emanates from his lovable characters with lined noses and extremities that seem like stylized bent wires.

"Play Station" is runs until Dec. 10, 2006. Call 9013152 or 0917-2583265.



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Maria Victoria B. Abano

Jurors' Choice
"WWW.DAING.COM"
Demetrio Dela Cruz

Jurors' Choice
"BLINK"
Crispian S. Villanueva Jr.

From left to right: Luciano Delos Reyes, Jr., Chris Nelson, Managing I
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Five made it to the top.

PHILIPPINE ART AWARDS 2006

Congratulations to the winners of this year's competition! Exhibition open to the public until December 31, 2006.

Exhibition hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 10:30AM - 4:00PM North Wing Gallery, 4/F Museum of the Filipino People, National Museum, Finance Road, Rizal Park

Sponsored and organized by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.



VISUAL ARTS

Historical photos at Silverlens

National Museum consultant and photo historian John L. Silva presents an exhibit of images from his family collection and own photographs featuring a visual family history. "Peacetime" depicts the '30s when there was significant growth in the country and in cities like Iloilo, Manila, and Baguio. "Wartime" vividly shows the destruction of Manila and the atrocities committed during the last days of Japanese occupation. "My Time" re-creates through images the topsy-turvy events of the '60s and '70s that would have a profound effect on Silva and his generation. "Our Times" runs until Dec. 20 at Silverlens Gallery, 2320 Pasong Tamo Extension, Warehouse 2, Makati City. Original photographs and reproductions are for sale. Silva lectures on "Making a Visual History of Your Family" Dec. 5. Call 8160044.

RM de Leon at Galerie 7

RM de Leon presents his latest works on paper, "Group Show: All New Works on Paper," until Dec. 20 at the new Galerie 7, 46 Calumpit St., Veterans Village, Project 7, Quezon City. De Leon goes back to his excursions with abstractions and formal issues (executing large drawings with

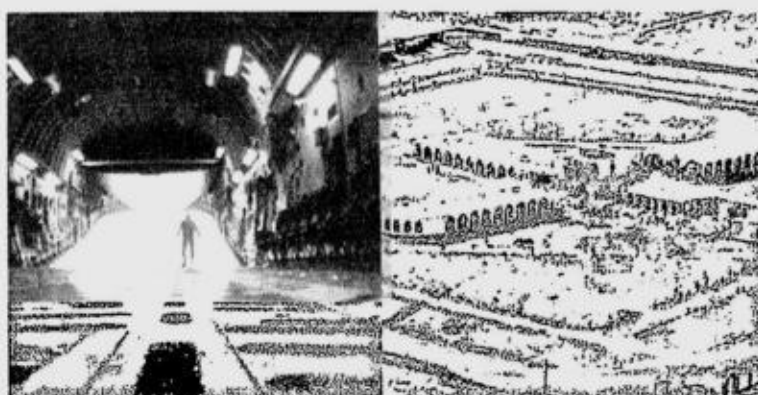
graphite on paper). Some works deal with irony while others poke fun at conventions and traditions. Oftentimes, his works challenge conventional topics and ideals. Call 3713751.

Tribute to Phillip Victor

Café Pulilan presents "Transcendence: A tribute to Phillip Victor" Dec. 9-Jan. 19, 2007. The exhibit pays homage to Victor, an abstractionist who trained at the UST fine arts school and was influenced by Florencio Concepcion and Arturo Luz. Composed of 15 artworks in pastel or acrylic on board, made from 1983-2000, the exhibit honors the great Bulakeño artist for his mastery of abstraction and artistic freedom and honesty. The exhibit will also feature works by Joey Angeles, Ral Arrogante, Reuben Canete, Cesar Cruz, Mike Danganan, Andrew de Guzman, Carlito de Jesus, Romy Galvez, Danny Garcia, Andy Manarpiiz, Elmer Oliva, Eghai Roxas, Boy Ventura, Gliff Victor, Mark Victor, Tats Villanueva, Mark Villanueva and Mannet Villariba.

Dial, Roldan, Cordero at Mag:net

Ranelle Dial's "Cube Uncubed" at Mag:net Gallery



ABS-CBN shuttles between conceptualism and geometry. Markedly inspired by Sol Lewitt's works extrapolating variations of the cube, Dial's paintings depict a wooden puzzle cube in its various configurations. Exhibit runs until Dec. 31. Call 4100995.

Norberto Roldan presents "Oil" until Dec. 16 at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan Avenue. The exhibit features images from the early 1990s Gulf War culled from the Internet. Call 9293191.

Mag:net Gallery Paseo, on the other hand, presents Louie Cordero's "Negativelands" Dec. 7-30. Mag:net Gallery Paseo is at Paseo de Roxas and Sedeno St., Makati City. Call 8177895.

"IRAQ War,"
by Norberto Roldan

Atelier at De las Islas

Grupong Atelier presents "Passion for Art" Dec. 9-Jan. 6, 2007, at Galeria de Las Islas, 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit shows works in pastel, watercolor, acrylic and oil on canvas. Grupong Atelier was formed in 1999 during a reunion of UST graduates of different specializations, united by the love of art. Call 5272113 or 9006021.



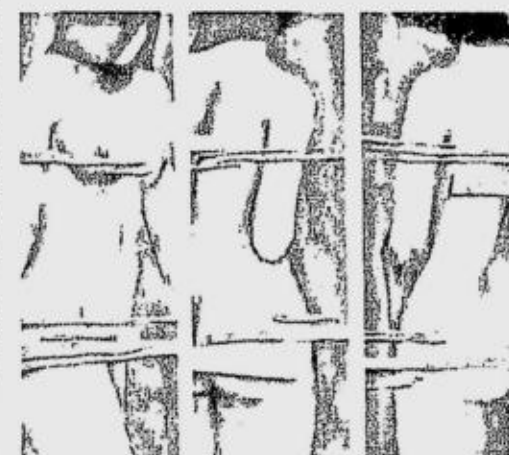
"GUMAMELA,"
by Loz Labsan

'Xenses' at Ricco-Renzo

Ricco-Renzo Galleries and Caffe presents "Xenses," a group exhibit of paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by Ambie Abano, Paul Quiano, Mitzi Aguilar-Reyes, Nestor Vinluan, José Tanedo, Noel El Farol, Roberto Feleo, Ernesto Enrique, Marco Ruben Malto and Benjie Cabangis Dec. 7. Ricco-Renzo Galleries and Caffe is at LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8982542, 8982543 or 8982545.

Diaz at Astra

Ramon Diaz presents "Celestial Horses" Dec. 8-21 at Galerie Astra, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia Street, Bel-Air 2, Makati. Diaz explores his fascination with the glorified and revered figures of the horse. Call 8903988 or 7269015.



"COQUETTE," "Fancy-Free" and "Cherished,"
by Anna de Leon

De Leon at Crucible

Anna de Leon mounts her first one-woman exhibit, "Fragments," Dec. 5-17 at Crucible Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall Bldg. A., Mandaluyong City. De Leon will exhibit a series of nudes, which symbolically represent her own emergence as an artist. Call 6356061.



"SCROLLS
of Thought"



Cabrera at Avellana

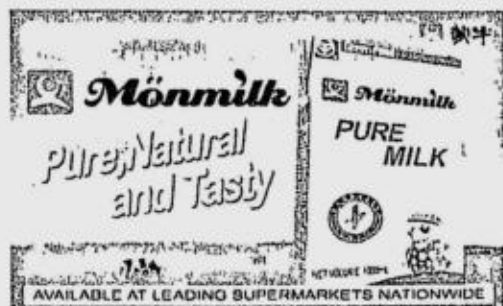
Benjie Cabrera mounts "Scrolls of Thought" currently on view at the Avellana Art Gallery. Utilizing the vertical expanse of highly fibered scrolls, the artist achieves lyrical high with the eloquence of his theme, which is a deep veneration of life's never-ending cycles. His celebrations are demonstrated as sinuous and conflagrating forms which, upon close inspection, reveal meticulously constructed worlds of flowing seasons, slender muses, swirling leaves and stars, the shifting skin of an impermanent world. Avellana Art Gallery is located at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

Feminist book

AS A TRIBUTE TO BABAYLAN (FILIPINO woman priests, healers, visionaries) and a closing ritual to the centennial commemoration of the feminist movement in the Philippines, an anthology of feminist writings will be launched Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m., at the UP Center for Women's Studies, Diliman, Quezon City, with Miriam College president Patricia Licuanan as guest speaker. The launch is sponsored by NGO-GO National Network for the Feminist Centennial.

"Centennial Crossings: Readings on Babaylan Feminism in the Philippines," edited by Fe B. Mangahas and Jenny R. Llaguno, has a foreword by former Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani and is published by C&E Publishing Inc. Its cover is by Sandra Torrijos and book design is by Nick Ricio.

Contributors to the book include Fe B. Mangahas, Agnes Micalat Cacayan, Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB; Sr. Mary Rosario Baturung, RGS; Archie Ligo, Virginia Pasalo, Rosario Cruz-Lucero, Myra Beltran, Grace Nono-Aves, Tala Isla-Contreras, Milla Aguilar, Girlie Villariba and Leny Mendoza-Strobel.



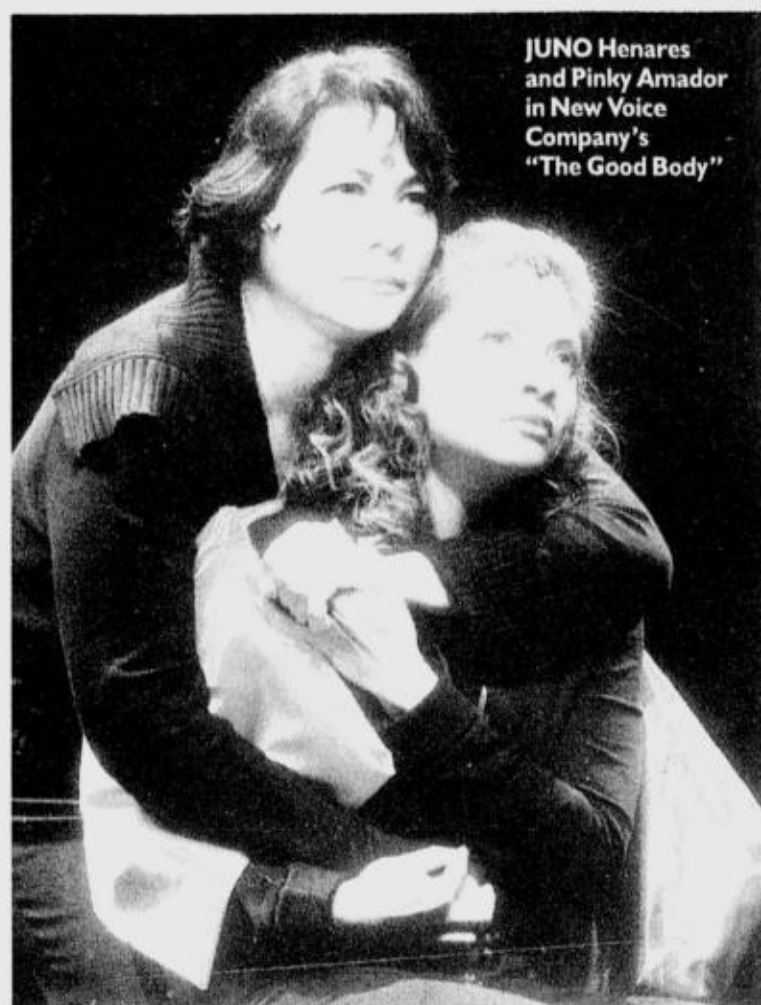
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JUNO Henares
and Pinky Amador
in New Voice
Company's
"The Good Body"

'The Sound of Music' and 'The Good Body' opened on the same day recently—and no two plays could be more different

Singing nuns and near-anorexics in one weekend

By Gibbs Cadiz

A BIG MUSICAL from Repertory Philippines is something you'd come to expect at this time of year, along with the usual jingling bells, boughs of holly and that dang partridge in a pear tree.

Last year it was the first-rate "Man of La Mancha," which marked Rep's first musical without the late Bibot Amador at the helm.

This year it's Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music," with Baby Barredo in the lone director's chair, and the old Rep trademarks are still there: great singing, compelling acting, an overall sense of sureness and good taste that assures a fine two hours spent at the theater.

This production is worth a look, too, for offering three alternating Marias: Rep staples Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Liesl Batucan, and comebacking musical star Monique Wilson, appearing in her first Rep production after 17 years.

Three performers in one role, plus four Rolfs, two Captain Von Trapps, three Baronesses (including the divine Cherie Gil), and 21 kids as the Von Trapp children, most of them appearing on stage for the first time—there you have a definition for onstage chaos, or, at least, a "Sound of Music" that might go every which way.

However, Barredo orchestrates an even-keeled production that, for the most part, manages to squeeze new juice from what has become an overly familiar old-fashioned musical.

The three Marias, in particular, come up with strikingly distinct interpretations of their character—none that would erase the memory of Julie Andrews in the role (the movie is more familiar to people than the original Broadway musical on which it was based), but each one carrying their individual DNA, as it were.

The first hint that Wilson's Maria would be an earthier version comes during her entrance, when she sings "The Sound of Music" barefoot. Her character is tramping up a meadow, after all.

Compare that with Batucan's take on the character—a kooky, touchy-feely Maria who isn't afraid to fall splat on her bum during the same number.

Wilson's opening performance was a bit too dark (a carryover from her intense sessions in "The Good Body," perhaps, which she rehearsed simultaneously with "The Sound of Music?"). To her credit, she considerably lightened up in her subsequent performances, and used her sparkling soprano to full advantage.

Of the three, she comes off as the most gorgeous-sounding Maria, while Batucan, no slouch in the singing department herself, is the most hyper (and, therefore, the friendliest) nanny-turned-mommy the Von Trapp children will ever have.

The always-reliable Lauchengco-Yulo brings a different dimension to her Maria. Hers is a rich, warm, deeply maternal version, crisp but empathetic. Her first entrance may jolt you a bit, because Lauchengco-Yulo looks quite mature for Maria's early scenes as a postulant.

But beginning from "I Have Confidence" onward, she wraps the material around her with thrilling aplomb, assuring that, for all intents and purposes, she remains the gold standard when it comes to classic Broadway fare like this.

The two Rolfs also make an interesting pair of alternates. Audie Gemora and Michael Williams have always been matched up: They both did

SINGING/D3

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- 1/2 cup ALASKA FRESH MILK
- 1/2 cup ALASKA CRÉMA ALL-PURPOSE CREAM
- 4 cups water
- 4 cups shredded corn kernels (Japanese corn, boiled)
- salt and pepper to taste

PROCEDURE:

- 1. Melt butter in stockpot over medium heat.
- 2. Sauté onions until translucent. Add flour and stir.
- 3. Add 2 liters of water and half of the shredded corn kernels. Remove from heat.
- 4. Using a hand blender, blend mixture until smooth.
- 5. Heat blended mixture again. Add the remaining 2 liters of water, shredded corn kernels and chicken powder.
- 6. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce and simmer. Add ALASKA FRESH MILK and ALASKA CRÉMA ALL-PURPOSE CREAM. Whisk thoroughly.
- Serve hot. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Makes about 15 servings.



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Y! YAHOO! GO



Music-making amid storm Reming

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

HAVE YOU EVER wondered how a concert coordinator's routine look like on the week of the concert?

As I write this, I am bracing for Typhoon Reming and securing the orchestral scores needed for the first rehearsal of tenor Otoniel Gonzaga and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, who will open the Great Performance Series at the Philamlife Theater Dec. 9.

A week earlier, I was shuttling between radio talk shows and TV cultural programs. I realized then where classical music really belonged in a country torn by typhoons and charter change.

On the radio program of

Promoting an Otoniel Gonzaga concert on radio and TV proves an eye-opener: Audiences still love classical music

Gemma Cruz Araneta, "Krus na Daan" over RJ Radio, we played a Neapolitan song and we made listeners guess the title in exchange for complimentary tickets to the Dec. 9 and 13 concerts of Gonzaga and Russian pianist Ilya Rashkovskiy at the Philamlife Theater. Soon, lis-

teners started calling the program and said the song's title was "O Sole Mio," and the rest "It's Now or Never." It was then I realized the classics still had a special place in the heart of radio followers.

On the TV show of Gemma over RJ TV, "Only Gemma," I plugged the concert in between her discussion on coconut as a dollar earner.

Over Channel 4 where NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote Alvarez hosted a cultural show, I was plugging Gonzaga as the "Manny Pacquiao of Opera" in between the senior citizens' choir of Eddie Ilarde and a Japanese embassy staff plugging a music festival celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines.

I also guested on a DWIZ radio show called "Mismo." My music talk with Marissa del Mar was made in between an RTC judge expounding on how to change your names legally and a man deploring warrantless arrests in Al-bay.

Over "Radyo Balintataw" of Cecile Guidote Alvarez and Bel Cunanan, I played Gonzaga's rendition of "Bituing Marikit" in between former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan denouncing a multinational drug firm for duping poor consumers.

I was introduced as a music missionary "na laging butas ang bulsa." Stage actor and playwright Mars Cavestany said classical music was needed if only to remind people that real music could be found outside noontime TV shows.

Then I invaded Billy Balbastro's "It's Showtime with Billy" over DZMM, and a record of Gonzaga singing "Granada" elicited euphoric reactions nationwide.

While filmmaker Maryo de los Reyes was introducing two young actors, I was paying tribute to Visayan singers from Isang Tapales (from Leyte) to Jovita Fuentes (Capiz), Conchita Gaston (Bacolod) and Gonzaga and Noel Azcona (both from Iloilo).



THE AUTHOR with flutist Christopher Oracion and soprano Camille Lopez-Molina



CELLIST Victor Michael Coo

'3 Tenors' concert tonight

THE "THREE TENORS"—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Angelo Reyes, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and former Senator Joey Lina—will hold the concert, "Three Tenors: The Ultimate Concert," tonight at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Proceeds will go to the three tenors' favorite advocacies.

Reyes will sing the Asin folk classic, "Masdan ang Kapaligiran," a plea for the environment. He has pledged support for the Green Army Foundation, a multisectoral environment group.

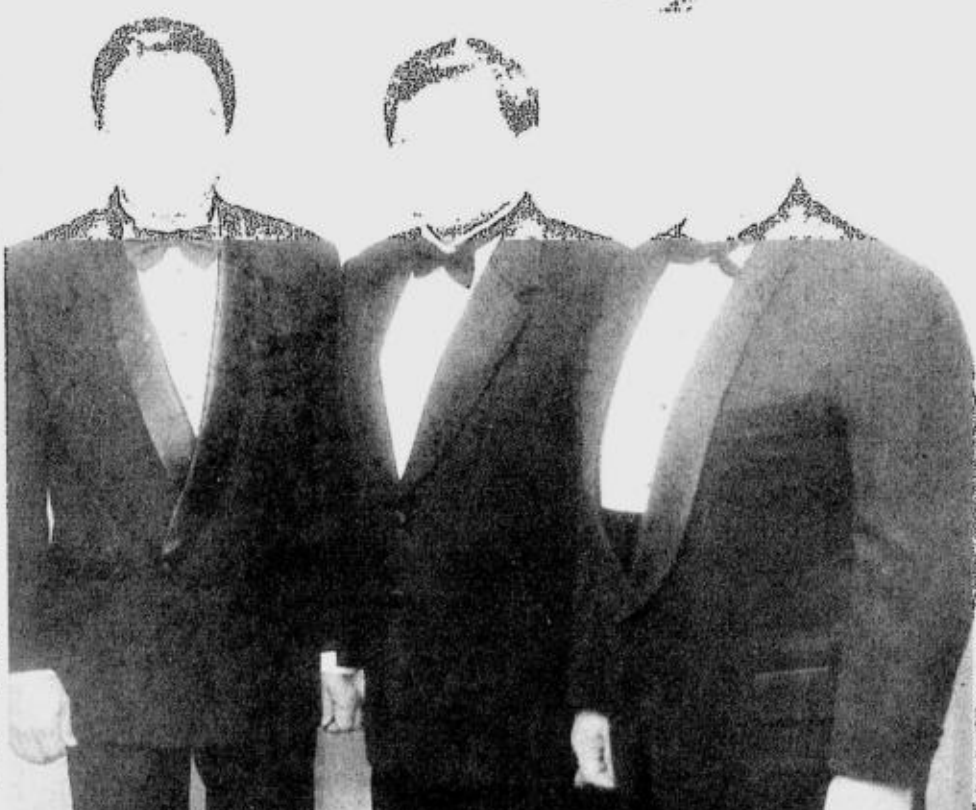
Fernando meanwhile has voiced his support for media workers who have helped in the information campaign of the MMDA.

Lina's advocacy is the youth, particularly the Rizal Youth Institute of the Order of the Knights of Rizal. He will sing Basil Valdes' "Ngayon," a song of youth empowerment.

Other beneficiaries are the Bayanihan Pilipino (Savings Movement), Knights of Rizal Festival of Excellence and Rotary Club International District 3830.

Guests are Verni Varga, Rachel Ann Go and Pops Fernandez. Director is Angie Magbanua.

Call 5270011, extension 1271 or 1275.



BAYANI Fernando, Joey Lina and Angelo Reyes

UST classical Christmas concert Dec. 6

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas (UST), in cooperation with the Associated Broadcasting Cooperation (ABC 5), will stage its fourth Christmas concert Dec. 6 and 7, 6:30 p.m., at the UST Chapel.

"A Christmas Prayer: The UST Christmas Concert 2006" is an annual musical extravaganza envisioned to spread the message of love and peace, especially in this

joyous season of Advent.

It is hoped that through the university's world-class musicians, performers, conductors and choral groups, UST will be able to usher in the yuletide season in a meaningful way and to reach not only the Thomasian community but the entire nation as well.

The concert will topbill the multi-awarded UST Singers,

Coro Tomasino, Liturgikon Vocal Ensemble, Psalterion, UST Grade School Choir, Salinggawi Dance Troupe and the UST Symphony Orchestra, with special performances by sopranos Irma Potenciano and Thea Perez and tenors Randy Gilongo and Ronan Ferrer.

"A Christmas Prayer: the UST Christmas Concert 2006" will be aired on ABC 5 Dec. 23 from 4-7 p.m.



IRMA Potenciano

Baguio hosts 'Aweng Paskua' choral festival

THE CITY OF BAGUIO WILL host the third "Aweng Paskua" choral festival at the Baguio Convention Center Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Ten adult and children's choral groups from Baguio, Dagupan City, Calasiao and Binalonan, Pangasinan will vie for handsome cash prizes, with the overall winner getting an

additional P10,000 and a trophy.

The event is a joint undertaking of the Baguio City First United Methodist Church, one of the city's biggest Protestant churches, and the city government.

Literally meaning "Christmas music" in Ilocano, "Aweng Paskua" was conceived in 2004 by the Church's Young Adults Fel-

lowship to celebrate the first Christmas night where a heavenly host sang to the shepherds proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ.

"Aweng Paskua" is a contemporary Christmas song written by award-winning composer and arranger Arnel de Pano.

Competing choirs will perform a choice piece and the contest

piece titled "Gloria," which is also composed by De Pano, who will chair this year's panel of judges.

Other judges are UE Chorale music director Anna Abeleda-Piquero, composer-arranger Joy Nilo and 2001 Bb. Pilipinas-Universe and lawyer Zorayda Ruth Andam.

Call 0918-9366568 or 0917-5068197.

ation when Lea Salonga did "The Prayer" with Gonzaga at the CCP early this year).

And then you confer with the conductor and pray that all musical numbers can be crammed in two rehearsals as an extra rehearsal would be costly.

So your ushers are ready, and the souvenir programs will hopefully be out before concert time, and you pray that more music lovers will patronize a concert in a land overrun by "Philippine Idol" and Manny Pacquiao.

As for me, Gonzaga singing "Oh Holy Night" and Dulce reprising "Memory" (from "Cats"), Camille Lopez delineating "Vissi d'arte" (from "Tosca") and flutist Christopher Oracion doing music from "Carmen" will hopefully be worth all the gruelling TV and radio guestings.

Call 9007023 or 0906-5104270.

Here and there

Pianist Oliver Salonga, two-time first-prize winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists' (Namcyra) and winner of two concerto competitions in Florida, USA, is all set for

his homecoming recital Dec. 29, 5 p.m. at the Pasig Museum, Plaza Rizal, Pasig City.

His program includes Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 26 in E Flat Major, Op. 81 ("Les Adieux"); Barber's Piano Sonata No. 25, and Liszt's Piano Sonata in B Minor.

On the other hand, cellist Victor Michael Coo, first-prize winner of the Namcyra and winner of several concerto competitions in the US, will also have a special homecoming concert Jan. 4, 2007, at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall, Makati Avenue and H. de la Costa Street, Makati City.

Coo's program includes Bach's Suite No. 3 in C Major; Warshaw's "Desert Call"; George Canseco's "Hiram" (transcribed for the cello by Nonoy Diestro); and Kodaly's Sonata Op. 8.

The concert is sponsored by Equitable PCI Bank and the MCO Foundation.

Both Salonga and Coo received unanimous critical acclaim and rousing standing ovations last year during their debut with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Rodol Colmenar.

Call 9007023 or 0906-5104270.

'Merry & Famous White Christmas' showcase

EIGHTY STUDENTS OF JOHN Robert Powers will join the "Merry & Famous: A White Christmas" showcase Dec. 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, Podium 4, RCBC Building on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

This event is similar to the International Modeling and Talents Association (IMTA) competition held in Hollywood and New York every year where students of John Robert Powers-Manila have been participating and competing for the past four years. In the Dec. 9

event, the students will showcase their talents in hosting, runway, fashion prints, TV commercial, acting, singing and dancing.

Overall director is Ning Cortez. Acting and TVC coach and technical director is Raymond Recto; short film director—Sean Lim; hosting segment coach—Karen Loren Agustin; singing segment coach—Von Arroyo and dance choreographer—Christian Adrales.

Call 8929511 (Makati) or 9270465 (Quezon City).

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RM awardee Apostol, National Artist José in UST media ethics seminar

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas's Center for Professional Development and Consultancy is holding a seminar on media ethics Dec. 7-8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST, España, Manila.

Lecturers include Eugenia Duran-Apostol, founding publisher of the INQUIRER and the recipient of the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication; National Artist and 1981 Ramon Magsaysay laureate R. Sionil José; and Alice Colet-Villadolid, former press undersecretary of Malacañang, ombudsman of the INQUIRER and correspondent

of the New York Times.

Other lecturers: Chit Estrella-Simbulan, former Malaya and Pinoy Times editor; Booma Cruz, former Manila Times and Pinoy Times editor; and Lito Zulueta, INQUIRER editor, literary arts head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and adviser of the Varistarian, the official UST student organ.

The seminar is open to media professionals, journalism, communication and media studies students, public and private information professionals, campus press advisers, and anyone interested in media practice.

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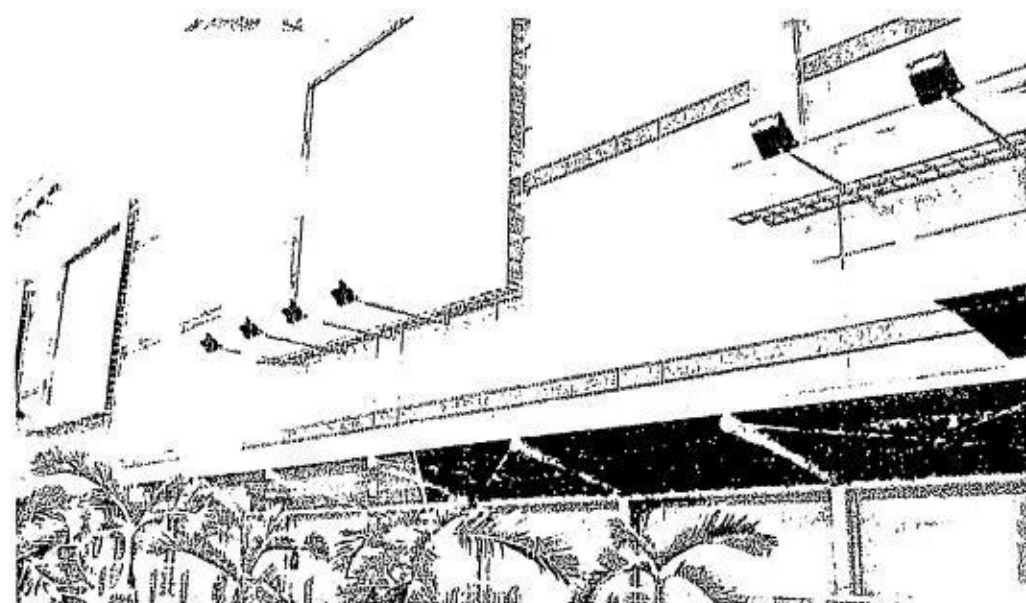
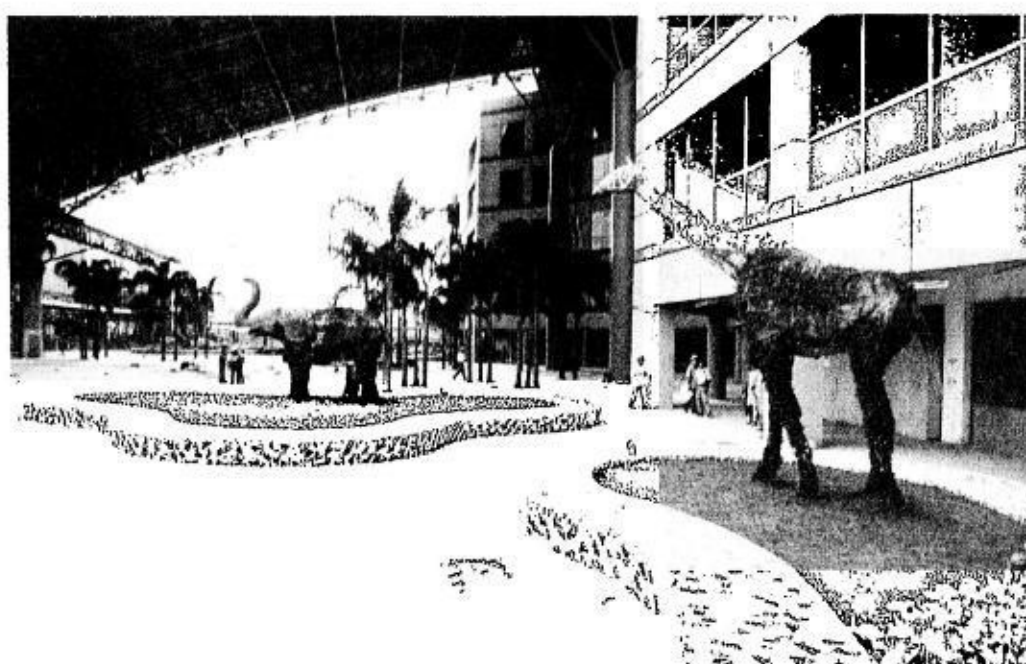
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SERENDRA and Market! Market! are taking part in the festival.

Cuisine-as-culture festival in Taguig

FOOD AS CULTURE AND community is the message of the festival, "A Taste of the City: The Many Flavors of Taguig," on Dec. 8, NBC Tent at the Fort. The event marks the second anniversary of Taguig's cityhood.

The culinary festival will see the participation of many of Taguig's top food places, said Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga.

Among the participating restaurants are Le Soufflé, Jesus's Gourmand, Kaiseki, L. Opera/Balducci, Good Earth, Pier 1, Gaudi, Thai at Silk, Duo, Cafe Puccini, Abe, Ilustrado, Filos, Embassy Supper Club and Café, Polu Kai Grill, Pasto/Trio, Tatami, Guava and Gourdo's.

Meanwhile, Ineng's Special Barbecue, Jasper's, Villasalud's and Ludmarc Cuisine will collaborate in preparing a buffet of Italian, Japanese, Continental and Filipino cuisines as well as traditional Taguig delicacies, the *balut* and the *itik*.

Tinga said the culinary festival is Taguig's way of upholding its culture and traditions. "Food is the best metaphor for the melting pot that is Taguig," he said. "And food is a good occasion for people to get together, as in a *salu-salu*."

Moreover, the development of the food scene in Taguig also indicates the progress achieved by



SALAD at Abe

the city, Tinga said. He added the city government seeks to make Taguig a world-class food and leisure destination.

The food festival will also raise funds for the Light Tomorrow Foundation, which seeks to build family townhouse units as public housing for the poor.

Tickets to "A Taste of the City: The Many Flavors of Taguig" are available at participating restaurants at Serendra, Market! Market!, Fort Strip and Fort Entertainment Center. Call 6283627 to 28.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Pinky Amador's life in 10 songs

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW



IN REAL LIFE, PINKY AMADOR is a kooky character.

This she played to the hilt in a one-night musical gig last Thursday at the 250-seater Teatrino in Greenhills, with long-time friends from the theater lending support.

The seriousness of the theatrical craft that Pinky learned under the wings of her aunt, Repertory Philippines founder Zenaida "Bibot" Amador, and which she further honed by obtaining a master's degree in England, was tossed aside with a medley called "My Life in 10 Songs" in which she described her checkered past.

Playful candor

Phases that Pinky went through before, during and after appearing in Rep plays and musicals were parodied with playful candor. She sang excerpts from, among others, "Climb Every Mountain" to confess her frustration in playing a different role in the first Rep production of "The Sound of Music"; "Annie Batungbakal" to recall her disco queen nights in Where Else? at the Makati Intercon Hotel; "Bonggahan" to describe an aborted plan by Vic del Rosario to launch her as a young Sampaguita; "Bakit Ako Mahihiya" to narrate still another plan to groom her as a "Viva Diva"; "The Heat Is On in Saigon" to capture the heady years as a bar girl in "Miss Saigon" (bold na bold ako, pero sa West End namam!); and the theme in "Captain Barbell" to highlight her most recent stints as a teleserye actress.

Pinky Amador is a topnotch stage, film and TV actress. And given the confidence and solid training that many others sorely lack, there's a fair chance she could still break into the ranks of pop chanteuse acts, given her impressive rendition of "Ang Pagsinta"—Pete Lacaba's Tagalog adaptation of Burt Bacharach's "The Look of Love."

Imagine that

But what really caught us off-guard was her version of John Lennon's "Imagine," in which she put her own personal touch that added more poignancy to the classic peace anthem.

Another attempt to sound different, by way of a bossa nova treatment of Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams," was a little awkward. She was perfect, though, in Donna Summer's "Last Dance."

The participation of theater figures Monique Wilson, Bart Guingona, Michael Williams, Juno Henares and JM Rodriguez, who jammed in two numbers as a gesture of support for Pinky, symbolized the high regard she has earned from her theater family and faithfully captured the meaning of the concert title, "You Love Me, You Really Love Me!"

Will she be loved by a wider audience who may not even care if she could perfectly sing the original French version of "La Vie En Rose," or perform a note-for-note reading of "Last Night of the World?"

The answer may lie in a forthcoming CD that she announced—with crossed fingers.

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Penguins top RP charts

PENGUINS DANCED THEIR WAY TO the hearts of the Filipino audience as Warner Bros.' animated spectacle "Happy Feet" opened at No. 1 in the country for the Nov. 22-26 weekend, grossing P32.39 million nationwide. This was announced by Francis Soliven, general manager of distributors Warner Bros.

In Metro Manila, "Happy Feet" posted a P25.2-million weekend gross—the all-time biggest opening weekend for an animated Warner Bros. film; the third highest opening weekend ever for an animated movie behind "Ice Age 2" at P31.6M and "The Incredibles" at P27.9M but ahead of "The Lion King" at P23.7M.



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OPENS DEC. 6

ENTERTAINMENT

Tyra F

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Tor

After taping 150 "30-Minute Meals" shows, Rachel Ray has been rediscovered by Oprah Winfrey and given her own hour-long lifestyle show, titled "Rachel Ray," showing Monday to Friday at 9 p.m. on the Lifestyle Network.

Like Oprah, we liked Rachel on "30-Minute Meals" because she was good at what she did, was easy on the eyes, and was as perky as a parakeet. On her new show, however, Rachel does more than just cook, so she's been encouraged to lift and expand the arc of her TV persona.

As a result, she's less tailored and disciplined here than in her all-cooking show. It looks like she's been told to behave in a more spontaneous manner, and she obliges by speaking more loudly, laughing a lot, and even occasionally letting off with a short or a whoop or two!

She's also come up with her very own colorful "vocabulary" of self-coined words and phrases, and dresses more idiosyncratically than before.

The effect is definitely brassier and more colorful, but the new or made-over Rachel sometimes throws off her guests.

Take Dr. Phil McGraw, who hosts his own psychology show (and, like Rachel, was discovered by Oprah). When he guested on "Rachel Ray," Dr. Phil was visibly unnerved by Rachel's ack-ack hosting and questioning style, and her bratty comments about his cooking.

Kid Fit

Double platinum for 'High School Musical'!

WALT DISNEY RECORDS' "High School Musical" soundtrack reached double-platinum status (60,000 units sold) in the Philippines and platinum (30,000 units) in Malaysia and Singapore.

The record producers of South-East Asia have become the first market outside of the region to register this approval of the TV movie first aired in June.

"High School Musical" has been the Asia-Pacific region's storm. It's great to be a part of show's global success and to have our own unique and local version of the song 'Break Free' to the momentum," said itoshi Nakata, Vice President Buena Vista Music Group, Asia and Asia Pacific.

The soundtrack includes an Asian version of "Breaking Free" sung by up-and-coming singers Vince Chong, Malaysia, Alicia Pan from Singapore and Nikki Gil from the Philippines.

"The Philippines has long been a way and we are seeing 'High School Musical' connect with kids in every market across the region," said Paul Robinson, COO of Music South East Asia. "Our goal is to establish the 'High School Musical' brand in every market and create the platform which we can market all our 'High School Musical' associated jets."

Banks shows Rachel Ray the way

As all sugar and spice to keep the classy and bubbly, of course, but the good doctor refused to dance the perky, pokey polka. As a result, his portion felt long and tendentious, and was hardly the success it was supposed to be.

It's good that Rachel is trying to work out her own, singular persona as a TV host, but she should remember that television is a cool medium, so she should seek to disarm her viewers and guests, instead of trying to over-them with excessive sass and

her part, Tyra Banks appears to pound the light in her own talk. When she started hosting the day program, she placed too emphasis on the world of fashion, and its beautiful and onally weird denizens.

se days, however, Tyra has down her fashion connect and this has made her and now more accessible to the dream TV audience.

has even scored points some daring advocacy-like pretending to be a man could get a first-hand view of men really treat or mistreat

ra keeps expanding and re-her TV persona in this she could assume Oprah's throne" after Ms Winfrey es off her microphone some from now.

is showing Rachel the way, new TV host cares to look stent: The formula for suc- television is based on con- self-evaluation—and rein-

c Flute'

Philippine Opera Company is "The Magic Flute" at the Little Theater on Dec. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m., and 17 at 3:30 p.m. Shows back buyers, call 892-8786.

an pianist

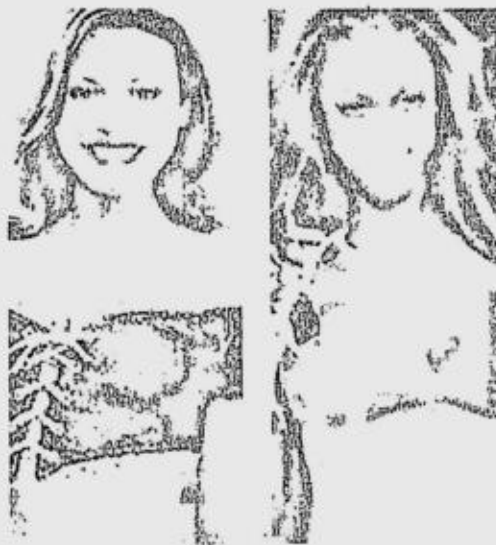
Rashkovskiy, grand prize of the first Hong Kong In-

ternational Piano Competition chaired by Vladimir Ashkenazy, will debut in Manila on Dec. 13 as part of the "Great Performance" series at the Philamlife Theater, UN Ave., Manila.

Also a prizewinner of international piano competitions in France, Italy and Spain, Rashkovskiy will perform in Mozart's "Fantasy in C Minor, KV 475," Schubert's "Wanderer Fantasy in C Major," Chopin's "Fantasy in F Minor," Liszt's "Fantasia Quasi Sonata (Dante Sonata)" and Balakirev's "Oriental Fantasy-Islamey." Call 900-7023.

Concert tour

Sharon Cuneta ends her "Philippine Mega Concert Tour 2006" with a Dec. 9 show in Cagayan de Oro, featuring Christopher de Leon.



RACHEL RAY

TYRA BANKS



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'Desperate' star Eva Longoria engaged

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS Eva Longoria, who plays a divorcee on the prowl on the hit television drama "Desperate Housewives," is engaged to marry her basketball star boyfriend Tony Parker, her spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Longoria's representative, Liza Anderson, in a written release, said Parker, 24, an all-star point guard for professional basketball's San Antonio Spurs, flew to Los Angeles after a game on Wednesday and proposed to Longoria, 31, when she got home from work.

The couple will wed next year in Parker's native France, Anderson said.

The Texas-born Longoria, who met Parker in 2004 at a Spurs game, was previously married to soap opera star Tyler Christopher. Reuters

'Drunk as a skunk'

NEW YORK—The ladies of morning TV talk show "The View" are laughing off Danny



EVA Longoria and Tony Parker

DeVito's loopy behavior during his appearance on the daytime talk show.

"Danny DeVito is not an alcoholic," Rosie O'Donnell, one of the four women co-hosts, said Thursday. "He's just a guy who had too many with his friend."

On Wednesday's show, the 62-year-old actor admitted he'd had a late night out with George Clooney and said, "I knew it was the last seven limoncellos that was going to get me."

When asked if he had been to sleep, DeVito replied, "I don't know."

DeVito, who was promoting his new Christmas comedy, "Deck the Halls," slurred his speech slightly and told a long-winded story about spending an amorous night in the White House's Lincoln bedroom—circa the Clinton era—with his wife, the actress Rhea Perlman.

"We went in and made it our business to really wreck the joint," he said.

His words were bleeped out after he apparently used some bad language when joking



DANNY DEVITO

about President George W. Bush, whom he had imitated as a monkey and one of the Three Stooges. He later sat on O'Donnell's lap, and she kissed him on the cheek.

Co-host Joy Behar said Thursday on the show that DeVito was "drunk as a skunk."

"But he was a fun

drunk," chimed in co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck.

Barbara Walters noted that she had gotten a message later to call him. It wasn't clear whether they connected or he had apologized.

His spokesman, Stan Rosenfield, said DeVito would take care of that mix-up himself. AP



TAYLOR HICKS performs before the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center in New York. REUTERS

Certain forgiveness

NEW YORK—Moviegoers will likely look past Mel Gibson's off-screen behavior when they view his new film "Apocalypto," said Dick Cook, chairman of Walt Disney Studios, the film's distributor.

"I think audiences will distinguish between the professional film making that Mel Gibson's involved in and Mel Gibson's personal life," Cook

told the Reuters Media Summit in New York. Walt Disney Studios is a division of Walt Disney Co.

The movie that Gibson directed opens on Dec. 8 and will be his first foray at the box office since being embroiled in a highly public



MEL GIBSON

controversy this summer for anti-Semitic comments he made to police in Malibu, California during his arrest on suspicion of drunk driving.

Gibson has apologized for the incident and said he was not anti-Semitic.

"Mel is one of the great filmmakers of all time," said Cook of Gibson, the star of the popular "Lethal Weapon" movies and director of "The Passion of the Christ."

The Passion of the Christ also stirred heated debate around the world for allegedly being anti-Semitic, but has grossed \$612 million.

Cook said there were challenges in marketing "Apocalypto," which has no big stars attached and is a Mayan-language epic about the decline of the native civilization.

"We're marketing the movie in about as straight ahead a way as it can be and keeping the focus on the movie," he said.

"It think we'll be fine in the opening weekend. It's probably the kind of movie that will grow," said Cook, adding he expected the movie's unique qualities to propel it to success.

"The big thing it has going for it, is that audiences are looking for something they haven't seen before and that's something we truly have going for us," he said. "There has never been anything like this before." Reuters

JENNIFER CONNELLY and husband Paul Bettany at a special NY screening of "Blood Diamond." REUTERS

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'Starstruck' is back

Four winners to be picked this year

By Armin Adina

"STARSTRUCK," GMA 7's ORIGINAL reality-based artista search that made stars out of Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras and Katrina Halili, is back.

And if last year Marky Cielo was declared the lone ultimate survivor, "Starstruck, The Next Level!" will proclaim four winners: the "Ultimate Hunk," the "Ultimate Sweetheart," and a tandem that will comprise the "Ultimate Loveteam."

The network also extended the age limit from 19 to 21.

GMA entertainment publicity head Jayce Perlas explained, "Being a pioneering show, we have to constantly reinvent. We must set the trend and not follow others."

He debunked observations that the program had lost its touch because the most recent winners did not become as hot as

Jennylyn or Katrina. "We have made stars out of every batch, but not all can have the same level of popularity," he said.

Perlas added that GMA 7 has continued with the search "because there's always room for fresh talent."

Host Raymond Gutierrez agrees: "There is a lot of potential in this batch." Fellow host Jolina Magdangal concurred, "And they're all good-looking."

Dindong hedges

But Dingdong Dantes, who has been hosting the program since its inception in 2002, said he can tell what the contestants have to offer only when they are further trimmed to 20.

Out of the more than 10,000 who auditioned all over the country, 80 remain in contention. Only 12 contestants—six males and six females—will take part in a series

of grueling tests and activities that will mold them to be the industry's next gems.

Each of the four ultimate survivors will receive P1 million in cash, a P2-million exclusive management contract from GMA and other prizes.

Dingdong said that, had "Starstruck" been introduced when he was starting in show

STARSTRUCK/F2



JOLINA MAGDANGAL

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- 12 Inner Wheel Club of Manila Christmas Bazaar
Ballroom, New World Hotel, Makati
- 18-19 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig
- 25-26 Wack-Wack Yuletide Blessings Bazaar
Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club
Multi-Purpose Hall

DECEMBER

- 2-3 St. James the Great Bazaar
Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang
- 6-10 Paskong Pinoy Grand Christmas Festival
Expo Centro, Araneta Center Cubao
- 9-10 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig
- 15-17 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig
- 20-24 Christmas Gifts Expo
Mega Trade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong

See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit 5009 Series of 2006.

AT THE MALL



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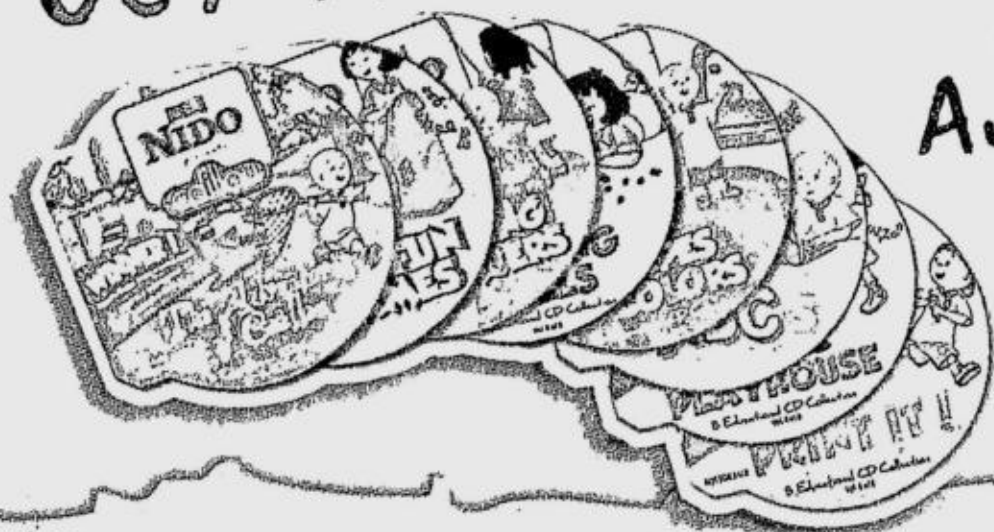
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Per DDH-BFAD Permit Nos. 0092 and 1082 Series of 2006

MTV Music Summit

SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN THE LOCAL music industry will perform at the fourth MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS tomorrow at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field.

To take the stage are Sandwich, Kamikazee, Hale, Urbandub, Pupil, KJwan, Sugarfree, Dicta License, 6Cyclemind, Spongecola, Mojofly and True Faith;

Orange and Lemons, Imago, Itchyworms, Up Dharma Down, Mayonnaise, Rockstudded, Jay R, Pedicab, Chicocci, Lokomotiv, Amber, Chilltees, Julianne, Sinosikat? and many more.

The concert starts at 4 p.m.

Kuh, Sitti at Festival Mall

Kuh Ledesma will perform on Dec. 10, 6 p.m., at Festival Supermall's Carousel Court, backed up by a 15-piece orchestra. She will sing classic OPM and Christmas songs.

Sitti takes center stage on Dec. 17, starting at 4 p.m.

The two shows are part of Festival Supermall's Christmas celebration. The series also includes performances by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra with Ecole Ballet de Manille on Dec. 16; The Great Magicians Show on Dec. 22; a Christmas Treats and Costume Contest on Dec. 23; and master magician Lou Hilario on Dec. 23 and 30.

Call 850-3514. Festival Supermall is in Alabang.

Tonight

"Samu't Sari—Sari-Saring Sarap, Galing, Saya at Ganda," an arts, craft and music festival at Tahanan Village Park grounds will feature Pinikpikan, Kadangyan and Neo-Tribe Groups, NycoMaka, Flamenco artists Clara Ramona and Yerbaguena and Dona Tumacder. Call 809-2888.

Coffbreak Island at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

December 3

Lovi Poe at SM Sta. Rosa

"Samu't Sari—Sari-Saring Sarap, Galing, Saya at Ganda," an arts, craft and music festival at Tahanan Village Park grounds will feature Pinikpikan, Kadangyan and Neo-Tribe Groups, NycoMaka, Flamenco artists Clara Ramona and Yerbaguena and Dona Tumacder. Call 809-2888.

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

December 4

"Three Tenors: The Ultimate Concert" featuring Secretary Angelo Reyes, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and former senator Joey Lina at the Fiesta Pavilion of The Manila Hotel. Call 527-0011.

Itchyworms, Silent Sanctuary, Chilltees at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Tessie Tomas at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

December 6

Matt Monro Jr. at The New Pagcor Grand Theater, Casino Filipino Parañaque; 8:30 p.m. Call 891-9999.

Bimbo Cerrudo in a benefit concert called, "Cerrudo: Classico... Classic Ko," at Teatrino in Greenhills. Call 667-3752.

Orange and Lemons with Spaceflower Show at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

December 7

Dong Abay at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

December 8

New Voice Company's production of "The Good Body" at the Music Museum starring Monique Wilson, Pinky Amador and Juno Henares

Bo Sanchez in "BoToks," an inspirational comedy concert in Ormoc City. Call (053) 255-2052.

The Jerks at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Kearney St. at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

December 9

Matt Monro Jr. at The Hard Rock Café, Makati; 9 p.m. Call 893-4661.

Bo Sanchez in "BoToks," an inspirational comedy concert in Tagbilaran City. Call 09162913036.

Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

December 10

"Suzuki Christmas Carol" at Shangri-La Plaza Fountain Area with 50 kids performing Mozart, Bach, Hayden, Chopin and Vivaldi classics as well as best-loved Christmas carols. Call 724-0705.

Lovi Poe at SM Bacoor

December 13

Bimbo Cerrudo in a benefit concert called, "Cerrudo: Classico... Classic Ko," at Teatrino in Greenhills. Call 867-1403.

Sugarfree and Hale at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

December 14

Agot Isidro at the Music Museum with guest The Company and Shawn David; 8 p.m.

Brownman Revival at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

December 15

Agot Isidro at the Music Museum with guest The New Minstrels and Shawn David; 8 p.m.

The Jerks at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

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3	CASINO ROYALE 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40 PG-13
4	THE RETURN 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55 PG-13

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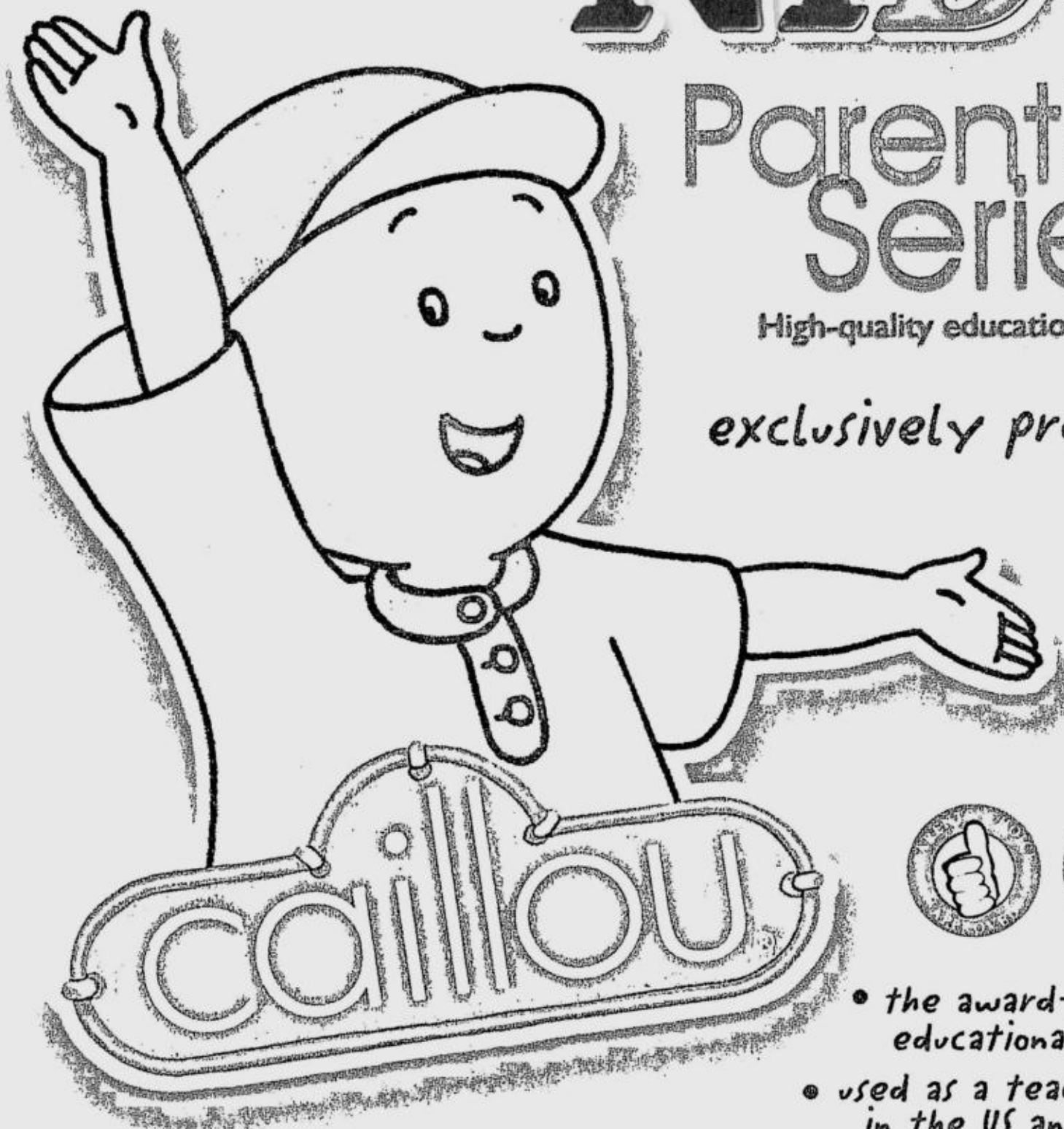
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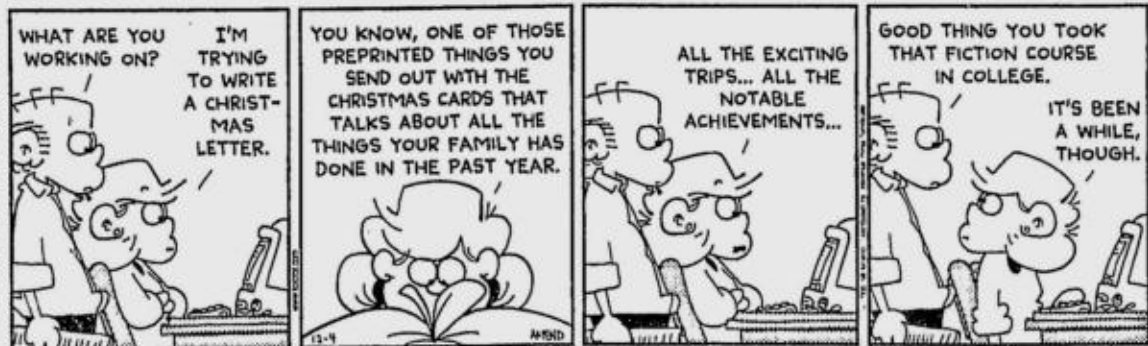


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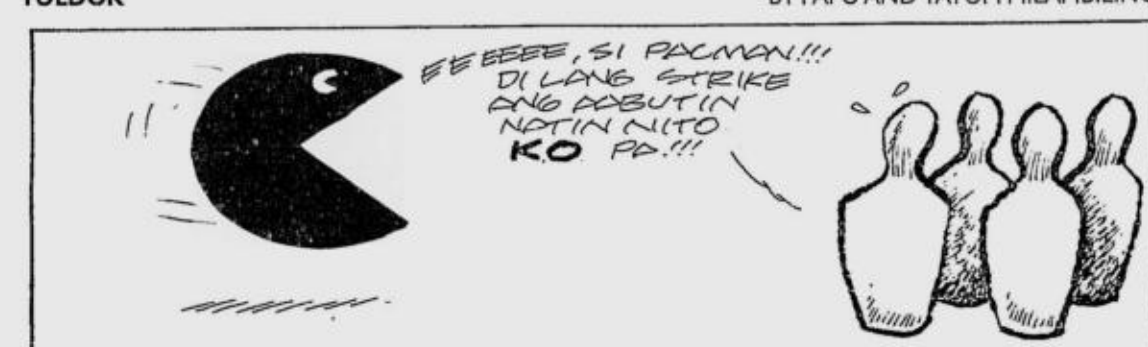
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TULDOK

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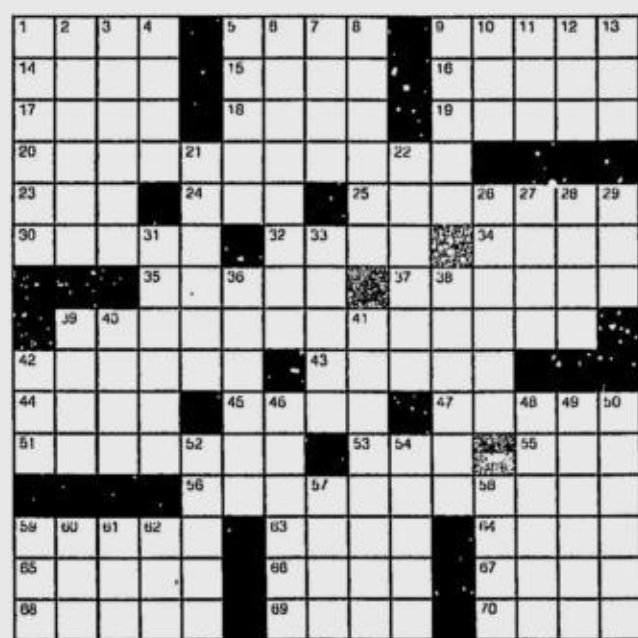


DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bloke
 - 5 Small vipers
 - 9 L.L. Bean rival
 - 14 Sole
 - 15 Persian ruler
 - 16 Express a view
 - 17 NASA affirmatives
 - 18 Scotia
 - 19 Bald raptor
 - 20 Catch phrase of 39A
 - 23 Corn serving
 - 24 Exist
 - 25 "Please Mr. ___" (1961 Marvelles hit)
 - 30 Abu ___ UAE
 - 32 U.S. 1 and 1 95
 - 34 Punjabi princess
 - 35 Befuddled
 - 37 Ancient German
 - 39 Character in 56A
 - 42 Young cow
 - 43 Off-quoted Yogi
 - 44 Shrinking Asian sea
 - 45 Switch addition?
 - 47 Wound up
 - 51 Any individual
 - 53 Back of a beat?
 - 55 NFLer Manning
 - 56 Harvey Kuntzman's periodical
 - 59 Legal defense
 - 63 Roman orator
 - 64 Issue forth
 - 65 EDS founder
 - 66 Part of USA
 - 67 Pitch of a phrase
 - 68 Child-adult bridge
 - 69 Free admission
 - 70 Hebrew zither
- DOWN**
- 1 Scratched
 - 2 Upstairs commotion
 - 3 Turkish capital
 - 4 Annoying one
 - 5 "Lou Grant" star



By Barry Silk McLean, VA

12/4/06

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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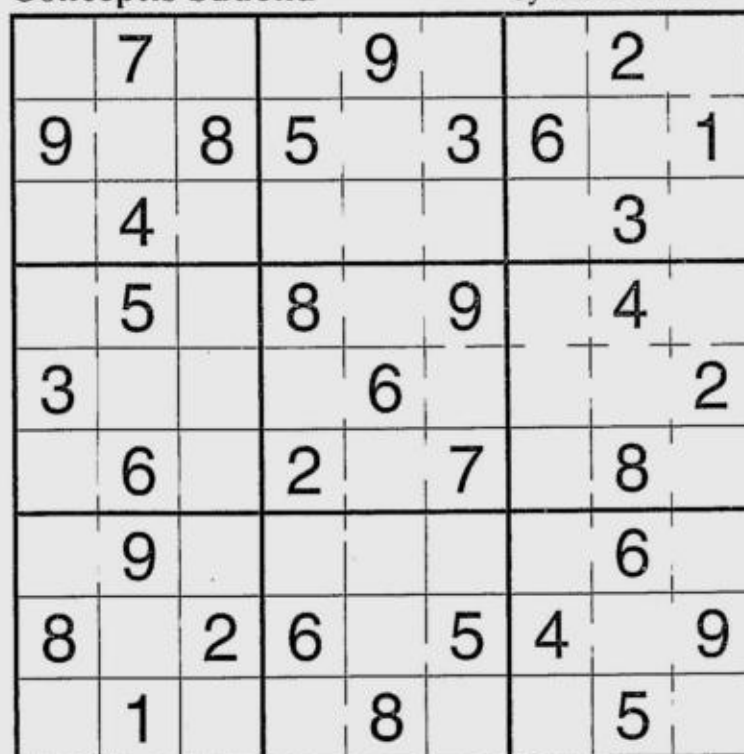
YOU BORN TODAY: You have an energy that is bold and gutsy. Nothing stops you once you know what you want. You like to be in control of your life and your surroundings. You have strong ideals that you believe in. You have grace and poise in your movements. People like you. In the year ahead, you'll seek solitude in order to learn something valuable.

Birthdate of: Marisa Tomei, actress; Lila McCann, singer; Jeff Bridges, actor.

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): You might hear from bill collectors or people who give you trouble with shared possessions, death and taxes. You need this like a fish needs a bicycle! (It's only for today.)
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with partners, especially about domestic matters, are challenging today. Be extra-patient with others. Don't react to their criticisms.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): People at work are uncooperative today or critical of your efforts. Don't take this seriously. Don't let this hold you back. This is not the day to present new ideas to the boss. (Gulp.)
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): You might feel overwhelmed by obligations or responsibilities connected with children today. Don't worry. This is temporary. (Plus, this simply goes with the territory.)
- LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family members might be critical or discouraging today. Don't let this get you down. No family on the planet can be without negative moments at times. (It'll be gone in 48 hours.)
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't be consumed with worry. "Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but gets you nowhere." Give it up.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel financially pinched today. This could be your perception of things. (But it's true: There is always too much month left at the end of the money!)
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't be upset if someone rains on your parade. There's a lot of negativity out there today. It affects everyone, but fortunately, it's gone in two days. (Whew!)
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do not approach the government or large institutions about new ventures or requests today. They will not be receptive to your applications. Wait until Wednesday.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone older or more experienced might be critical of your efforts today. This could have some validity, or it could be just sour grapes. Don't let it get you down.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Avoid serious discussions with parents, bosses and VIPs today. People are not in a receptive frame of mind right now. In fact, most people are ready to squash any new idea today. (Yikes!)
- PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing, the media and higher education look dismal today. Don't let this deter you. Wait until Wednesday to see how things really turn out.

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

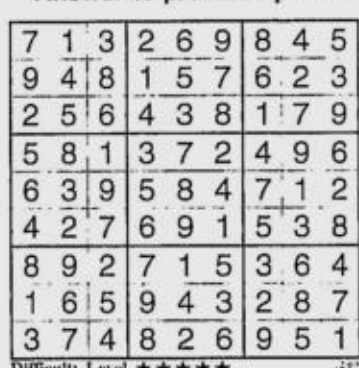
12/04

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

ROUNDUP

Williams as Roosevelt

ROBIN WILLIAMS STARS IN THE ADVENTURE-comedy "Night at the Museum" as history's legendary leader Teddy Roosevelt, whose wax figure is being guarded by the newly recruited security Larry Daley (Ben Stiller) in the Natural History Museum in New York City.

"This whole thing for me was like Halloween," he says. "One minute you're with Tyrannosaurus Rex and then you see an Egyptian King go."

The 20th Century Fox movie, distributed by Warner Bros., opens soon.

Jerry Yan visit canceled

WORLD Vision-Philippines is canceling the scheduled visit of Jerry Yan to Filipino-sponsored children to address the urgent need for relief operation due to Super-typhoon "Reming."

The Taiwanese superstar, popularly known as Dao Ming



JERRY YAN



Si of the TV series "Meteor Garden," was set to visit the Philippines on Dec. 8 to 11 as part of his Asian child sponsorship campaign.

'Shock and Awe'

USING exclusive imagery and computer graphics imaging, the National Geographic Channel gives viewers an exclusive look at what was happening in Baghdad during the two-day massive bombing campaign in March 2003 in "Inside Shock and Awe."

The bombardment which launched Operation Iraqi Freedom was designed to destroy the Iraqi army's will to fight while killing as few people as possible.

The program airs on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. and Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

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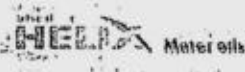
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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

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Part 1

Where You Find The Best.

Adapted from mission-critical contact centers in the Philippines.

Julio Iglesias covers Foreigner and The Cars



By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

"I never looked at music as either 'good' or 'bad,' just different kinds."—Bob Dylan

ADOPTING DYLAN'S VIEW-point, would it be easy to appreciate a couple of CDs that might not immediately arouse our curiosity?

The first one, "Romantic Classics" (Sony BMG) by Julio Iglesias, actually has an interesting lineup of tracks. There are songs here that rock fans, for instance, wouldn't normally associate with the Spanish balladeer.

Imagine Iglesias covering Foreigner and The Cars!

The explanation is found in the album liner notes, in which the singer says it doesn't matter what era or genre the songs belong to... what's important is that each one has an irre-

sistible melody and relevant lyrics that capture the stages of a romance—from infatuation and longing to heartbreak and betrayal.

Iglesias is lucky to have producers Albert Hammond and Robert Buchanan who helped research the material, and who both did a wonderful job supervising (and playing) in the sessions.

A great-sounding harmonica in "Everybody's Talking" (Jimmy Buffet) gets this album off on the right note. It gives the listener an idea how the producers made sure all the songs, featuring a roster of session musicians (including Chris Botti), would not pale side by side with the original recordings.

Even the background singers render excellent performances.

Pinoy factor

Apparently, Iglesias himself feels the beauty of the tracks. Thick Hispanic accent notwithstanding, he succeeds in exploring the pain of wounded relationships in "Drive,"



RYAN CAYABYAB

"Careless Whisper," and "How Can You Mend A Broken Heart?" as well as the joys and anxieties of budding romance in "Waiting For A Girl Like You," "This Guy's In Love With You," and "I Want To Know What Love Is," among other pop, rock and country hits of the '60s, '70s and '80s.

But what should further interest the non-Iglesias fan is the surprising participation of Ryan Cayabyab and Lea Salonga in two bonus tracks.

Cayabyab was asked to write Tagalog cover lyrics to "Crazy" (originally written by Willie Nelson for Patsy Cline) and "All of You" (first recorded by Diana Ross)—as a concession to the Asian market (Bahasa and Mandarin versions were also commissioned).

The project almost didn't happen because Cayabyab initially refused, citing difficulty in giving "Crazy" a proper Tagalog translation. What he came out with is a Taglish interpretation and hearing Iglesias do it should amuse the skeptics. The duet with Salonga in "All of You" has a phrase ("Todo-todo mo nang ibigay...") that stands out for Iglesias' impassioned delivery.

Moving experience

The second CD, "Forever Begins Tonight" (Universal Music/MCA) by Italian singer Patrizio Buanne, would come in handy after a candlelit dinner, more wine and hushed conversation. The presence of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in some tracks is quite a moving experience.

For those adventurous enough to listen to a romantic crooner in the mold of Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck who slips into bilingual lyrics (Italian and English), try this one.

Appreciating the Italian language, however, can be difficult without printed lyrics and we wished MCA's local executives had not overlooked this glaring error. (In fact, the CD's inner sleeves were so badly printed that it's impossible to read anything.)

In any case, hearing Buanne for the first time is not that hard on the ears because the music he grew up with are easily detected in songs like "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me" (Dusty Springfield), "Only You" (the Platters), "You're My World" (Tom Jones) and "Always On My Mind" (Elvis Presley).

Wise decision

Buanne says he would have been a chef just like his father, had he not been turned on to the music of Jones, Dean Martin, Matt Monro, Frank Sinatra and other crooners of a bygone era.

He did make a wise decision, because he's got the voice, not to mention the looks women would fall for.

Martin Scorsese or Francis Ford Coppola could use Buanne's authentic Italian singing—if ever they make more of those classic Mafia films.

PATRIZIO BUANNE



Must have

Continuum: Music by John Mayer

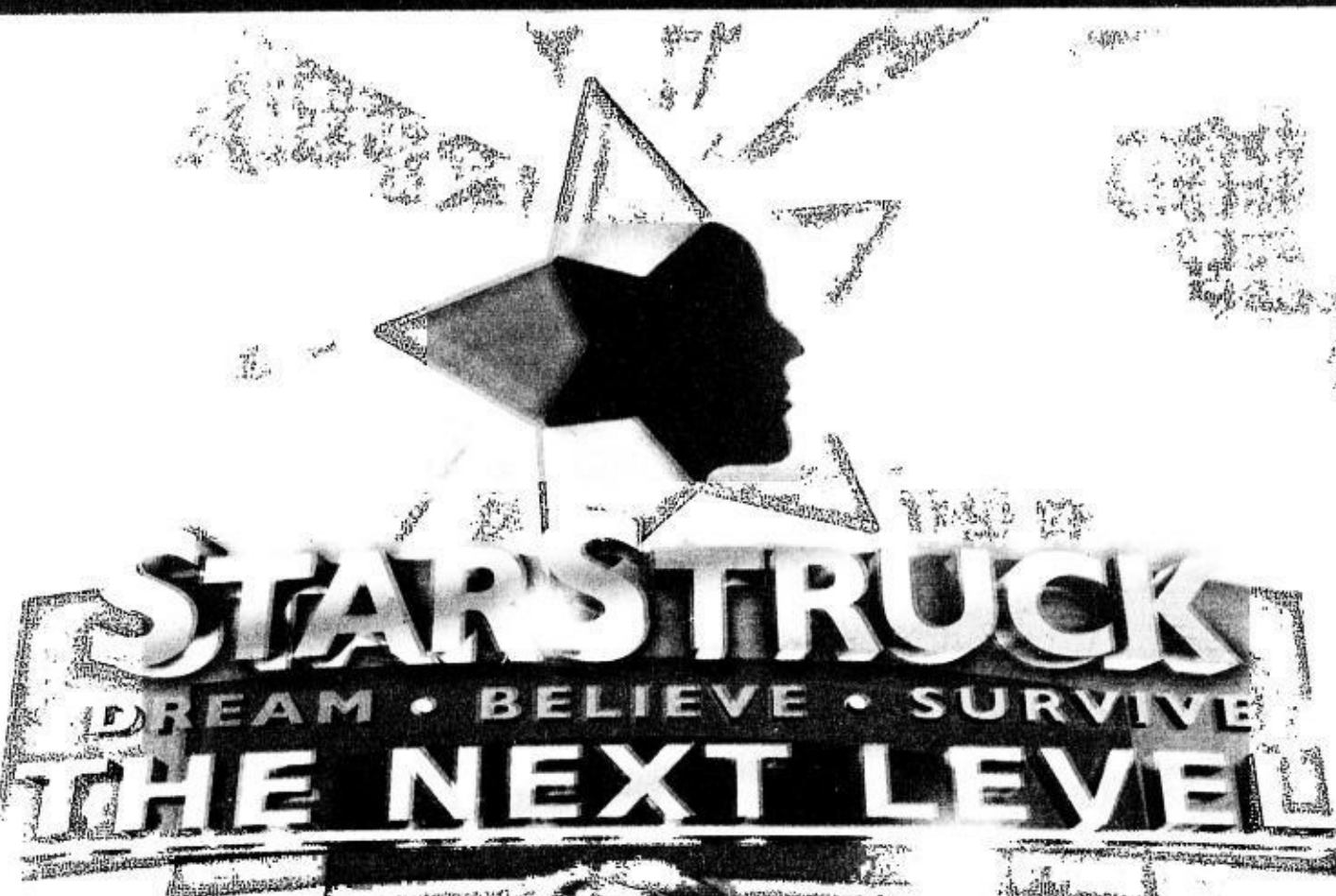
THE GREAT-LOOKING CHAP WHO PER-formed toward the end of the recent American Music Awards, singing "Waiting on the World to Change" is no newcomer. He's been around for quite a while, and it seems he's at his nth peak with this new collection.

Apart from "Waiting," there are 11 other tracks, each one waiting to be discovered by devotees and new converts alike, and proclaimed as personal favorites.

In short, not a single track is wasted—12 beats in 12 numbers—clever and cool. "Dreaming with a Broken Heart" is the dreamiest. But the most apparent chart contender—again apart from "Waiting"—at this point is "Stop This Train" and "Gravity."

It would seem that the guy's the quintessential sensitive man, based on his exquisitely woven melodies and lyrics.

NGAYONG GABI NA!



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